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African Violet

M A G A Z I N E

SMITHSONIAN

JUN 23 1952



SEPTEMBER 1952

VOLUME 6

NUMBER 1

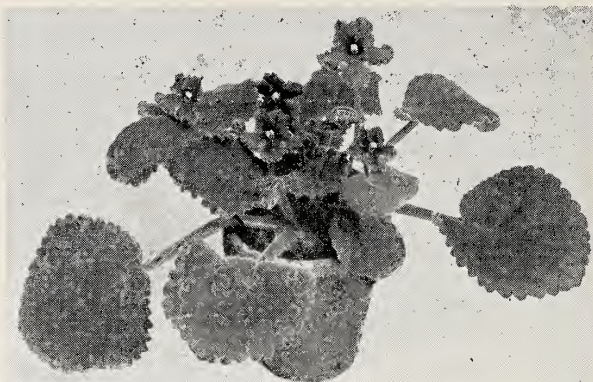
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Pink Delight	Lacy Girl
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FOR AFRICAN VIOLET LOVERS

LAZY SUSAN PLANT TREE



SENIOR STAND PRICE
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JUNIOR STAND PRICE
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LAZY SUSAN LAMP STAND



CHRISTMAS SPECIAL \$38.25
CHRISTMAS SALE EXPIRES
DECEMBER 31, 1952.

DESCRIPTION OF LAZY SUSAN PLANT TREES

These attractive and sturdy Lazy Susans display your beautiful plants and make it easy to water and change position which is so necessary to proper plant culture.

These stands are highly decorative as well as useful for any room in your home.

SENIOR STAND (Pictured)

- Easily holds 50 plants. Consists of four shelves 10, 16, 22, and 28 inches in diameter.
- Height 55 inches, Weight 23 lbs.

JUNIOR STAND

- Readily holds about 30 3 inch pots. Three shelves 10, 16, and 22 inches in diameter.
- Height 40 inches, Weight 12½ lbs.

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

Features Common to all Stands

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- Chrome Plated Tubing
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☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

DESCRIPTION OF LAZY SUSAN LAMP STAND

It can be used as a combination flower and magazine stand. Has two 24" shelves. The top shelf easily holds 7 large plants. The lower shelf holds 30 small pots or can be used as a magazine shelf.

Furnished Without Lampshade

It is fitted to mount any three wire lamp shade.

HEIGHT 55" — WEIGHT ABOUT 20 LBS.

**ALL STANDS SHIPPED KNOCKED
DOWN READY FOR EASY HOME
SET UP.**

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The Plant of the Year!

THIS BEAUTIFUL NEW PINK VARIETY OF
AFRICAN VIOLET HAS ALREADY MADE
AN ENVIABLE RECORD FOR ITSELF:

1. A Blue Ribbon Winner at 1952 Chicago
African Violet Convention
2. Hailed as an outstanding variety at the
Convention.
3. Featured and illustrated in leading
magazines.

YOU can have this beautiful new plant in your own collection. Its large blossoms of rose pink, often 8 to a cluster, grow on upright stems. Foliage is rich dark green, quilted glossy on top, and rose colored underneath. (Read Alma Wright's article on page 7, and Montague Free's on page 10 in July Home Garden.)

We can make immediate shipment, Parcel Post Special Delivery at only \$2.50 each. We guarantee to replace any plants that do not arrive in perfect condition. Order yours now while the supply is adequate.

WE ARE THE ORIGINATORS AND ONLY GROWERS OF
PINK CHEER

If you wish to see a true color picture of PINK
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DEALERS: We expect to have PINK CHEER in wholesale quantities soon.

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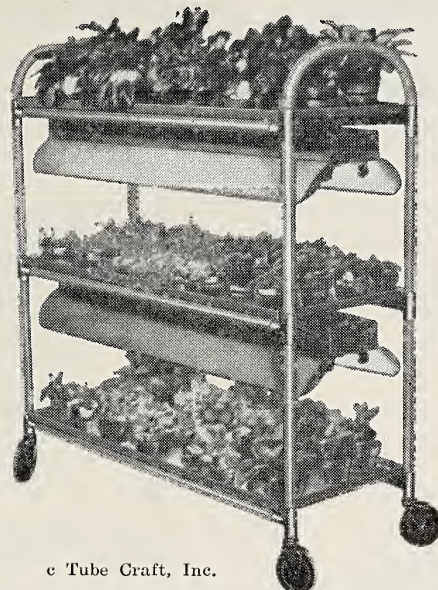
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Compact

Sturdy

Easily Moved



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Holds More Than

200 — 3 inch

Flower Pots

Tube Craft FloraCart

The Portable Indoor Garden

Here is the answer to a long felt need for a compact, sturdy stand which would hold a large number of plants. Made of 1 1/4" diameter 16 guage steel tubing, this stand is light in weight, can be easily moved about and yet will hold more than 200 3" flower pots. It makes an attractive addition to any room, a fixture which every flower grower will want.

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The FloraCart is equipped with three galvanized steel water tight trays 19" x 50" with a 1" flange which permits watering plants from the bottom -- the preferred method. These shelves are adjustable to a maximum height of 21" between levels. Provision has also been made for attaching standard fluorescent fixtures if desired. (Picture above shows lights installed.)

Overall size of stand when assembled 52" long x 19" deep x 52" high. Gray (baked enamel) finish. Comes complete with four ball bearing, rubber tired, 4" diameter, swivel casters. Shipped knocked down with all necessary fittings, including bolts and nuts, for easy home assembly. Fully guaranteed against defects in material or construction.

Write for descriptive folder and our group purchase plan.

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an outstanding and distinct member
to the fast-growing and amazing Saintpaulia family

All Aglow

The most astonishing gorgeous coral pink, intensifying in dark pink coloring as the blossom matures. Just the opposite from usual habits of other pinks. Bearing its well-cupped good size blossoms on tall strong stems, it is similar in growth to Pink Girl, one of its parents. But Pink Girl is pale indeed compared to this exceptional hybrid.

We were at a loss for a name to really describe its **BRILLIANT DEEP PINK** coloring, All Aglow would be just right.

Harvey Cox, who originated this beauty, is working from this dark pink pigment in All Aglow towards that elusive bright red and we believe he is on the right track.

It was a source of wonder and enjoyment for us to develop Harvey's deepest pink in our greenhouses and care for these eye-catching beauties.

ALL AGLOW IS A PROFUSE AN EASY BLOOMER - so easy that it blooms freely in 2-inch pots.

Beautiful, dark bronzy girl foliage, deeply notched, forms a pleasing background for this aristocrat of the Pinks.

Too late for Fall shipping, it will be available at the greenhouse direct in December. Price \$3.00 each.

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RED PRINCESS Translucent crimson.

PAINTED GIRL Sugary white, orchid edge.

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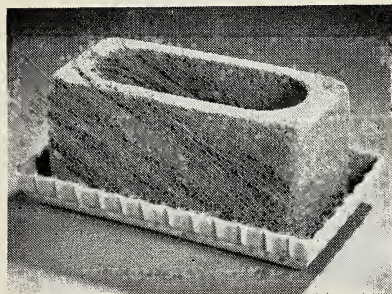
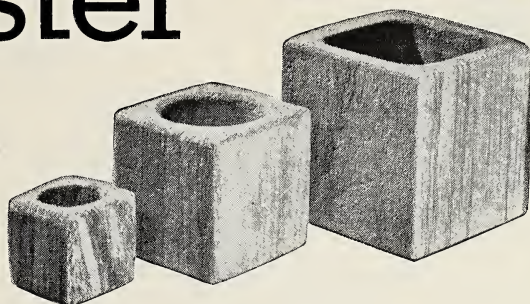
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extinct volcano in
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Absorbs water through bottom surface, no wick
necessary, no clogging

PERFECT FOR AFRICAN VIOLETS

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"Sometime ago, I bought your PLANTMASTER
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"I have eight PLANTMASTER pots and love them.
My violets are beautiful, this is the perfect pot."

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"I have purchased a number of your PLANT-
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thrive in this type of pot. They make the foliage
very hardy. Blooms of some of my varieties have
gotten 2 1/8" across."



SPECIAL GET ACQUAINTED OFFER — All orders of \$10.00 value will re-
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ceramic plate. Offer expires Oct. 1, 1952.

Ordered directly from this ad, all orders postpaid. Dealers and Clubs write for special dis-
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*Listed by height, width and length respec-
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Beautiful California Pottery —
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African Violet Magazine



A Quarterly Publication

C O N T E N T S

Vol. 6 September 1952 No. 1

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WHAT I GOT FOR MY TWENTY DOLLARS

Florence Foltz, Penna.

When the Chicago Convention information was distributed, and cries came from many directions: "TWENTY DOLLARS FOR FOUR MEALS," "ITS TOO EXPENSIVE!", "I COULD BUY A WEEK'S GROCERIES FOR \$20.00" ETC. ETC., I literally hit the ceiling. I quite agree that \$20.00 for four meals is a lot of money, but let's look at it from another angle and see what we got for that money besides food.

Most important to me was seeing so many old friends. If I had visited them all personally it would have cost many, many times \$20.00. This Convention produced a number of new friends, and I met several ladies with whom I had been corresponding -- There wasn't time enough to talk to any of them as long as I wanted to, but it was wonderful seeing them, even if it was just for a little while.

I thought the speakers at Chicago were exceptionally good. They not only gave us many facts, but, more important, also much food for thought. Reports on the speakers will be, or have been, given elsewhere in the magazine, so I will not go into detail on them other than to say I got much more than \$20.00 worth of good from them.

No doubt many folks will think I am slightly confused in not having mentioned the Saintpaulia exhibits first, but beautiful as they were, I was more interested in seeing the people first !! My husband (who, fortunately is also an African violet enthusiast), was quite exasperated with me at Chicago . . . Every time I got in line to go around the exhibit rooms I would see someone I wanted to talk to, and it was Friday afternoon before he finally corralled me and kept me in line long enough to completely look at the plants . . .

Aside from the Convention, we had a grand time in Chicago. Anne Tinari will verify that! For the benefit of those who might feel that only people with lots of money can afford to go to a Convention, I'd like to point out that we are just average, struggling folks, and it took careful saving and budget juggling for us to both make the trip, but we feel it was well worth every penny we spent. On the way home from Chicago we began making plans for our trip to Nashville.

Think it over and see if you can really put a dollars and cents value on what you get from an African Violet Society Convention fee. With so much to gain, one can hardly afford to miss it . .

SEE YOU IN NASHVILLE!

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Made Especially for African Violets

Safe and Easy to Use

DOES NOT CONTAIN POISON
OR ANY HARMFUL INGREDIENTS

Roigina African Violet Plant Food is manufactured in capsule form for greater convenience. The ORGANIC contents are an essential food for African Violets. Part of the food is available at once. The balance is available as the plant uses it. This promotes growth, blossoms and intensifies color when used as directed.

54 capsules \$1.00 prepaid

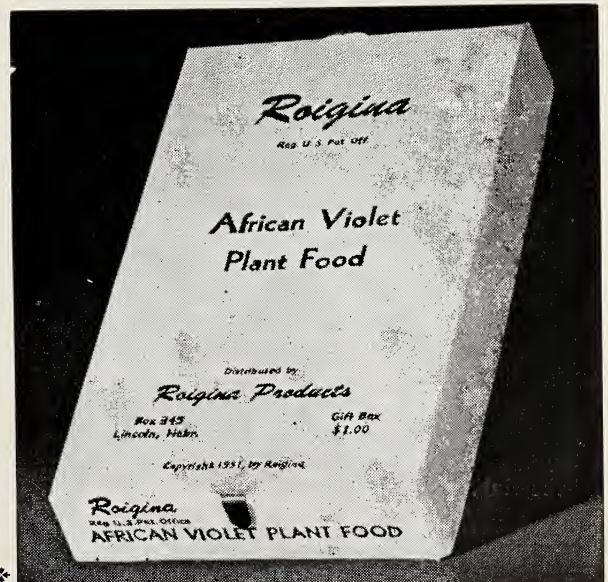
Free folder on care and culture of African Violets included

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ORGANIZING A LOCAL CLUB

Lorna Anderson, Mich.

These were the suggestions given by Mrs. Ralph Berst who had charge of a class at the National African Violet Convention in Chicago in instructing the correct technique in the organizing of a local Society.

Invite a few friends in who are interested in Saintpaulias and in organizing a local club.

Decide upon a date and place where the first meeting will be held, usually in a private home. A regular meeting place can be decided upon later.

At the first meeting, select a temporary chairman, secretary and treasurer. The organizer will explain the purpose of a Local Society and also tell about the achievements of the National Society. Appoint a committee to draw up a constitution and by-laws. Amendments may be added later to cover any changes necessary in the following constitution and by-laws.

Article I Name -- The name of the new club.

Article II Purpose -- The purpose, both social and educational.

Article III Membership -- Application for membership in the society shall be by written application and approved by majority of active members.

Article IV Dues -- The annual dues for the individual members shall be payable on or before etc.

Article V Officers and Elections -- The officers of this club shall be a president, one or more vice-presidents, a recording secretary, a treasurer and a reporter. These officers shall be elected at the first meeting of each year.

The president shall preside at all meetings. She shall appoint all committees and perform all duties pertaining to such office and she shall be an ex-officio member of all committees. She should be well groomed, tactful, broadminded and a quick thinker.

The vice-president shall preside in the absence of the president and shall at all times assist the president in such work of the club as may be assigned to her.

The recording secretary shall keep an accurate account of all meetings of the club. These minutes shall be read and approved at the regular meeting of the club.

The corresponding secretary shall conduct the correspondence of the club.

The treasurer shall collect all dues and give receipts for same, keep an accurate account of the same, pay all bills approved by the club and give a report at each meeting.

These officers shall be elected by the club once a year for a period of one year.

Article VI Meetings -- The society shall hold one or more meetings during a month for transaction of its business and for the study of the work.

Article VII Amendments -- Proposed amendments to the constitution shall be sent to the recording secretary at least 30 days prior to the annual meeting.

The president calls the meeting to order with a gavel. Then follows roll call. The minutes of the previous meeting are read by the recording secretary. Then the treasurer gives a report.

A historian records important activities, keeps a scrapbook of all news items, pictures, etc. of the society.

A program year book, for a full year, should be 4" x 5" and include name, year, town, officers, members, constitution and by-laws. Those members joining before the third meeting will be considered charter members.

Program -- Select a speaker who is a real authority, or use own talent, but give speaker time to freshen up and look over notes. A discussion period, question and answers. A speaker should be given an allotted time.

For the success of future meetings, friendliness and hospitality must be shown. The secretary should extend a note of thanks to the speaker following the meeting.

Good cheer -- Send cards or flowers to members in case of illness.

AFRICAN VIOLET MAGAZINE

BINDERS

Introduced at Chicago Meeting 2 for \$5.50 Ppd.

Orders for 1 not accepted.

Editor

REMINDERS

Daisy Jones, Tenn.

1. Spring and Fall is the best time to propagate African violet leaves.

2. Use only the finest (most perfectly developed and healthiest) medium sized leaves for propagation.

3. Don't let your plants have multiple crowns -- if you do, the blossoms will be small, the leaves will be crowded and plant growth retarded.

4. One fine specimen (single crown) plant of a recognized variety is more valuable than many small plants of unknown name.

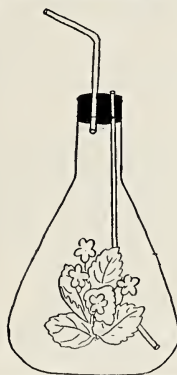
5. Keep your plant pots marked with name of variety.

6. If your plants become infested with plant lice or aphids, purchase a reliable insecticide spray such as N.N.O.R. or Optox or some other insecticide recommended by the African Violet Society of America.

NEW

NO DRIP VIOLET WATERER

Will not drip and spot Leaves is handy to use watering or treating plants with Sodium Selenate or Liquid Plant Food.



Capacity 1 Quart

Violet Painted Design

Order from

ESTHER WHITE

1410 Newton St.

Akron 5, Ohio

Price \$2.50

We are discontinuing the shipment of African Violet Plants through the mails. We ship wholesale orders minimum order of 25 plants via Railway Express.

We are concentrating all our efforts on producing the best possible ROOTED CUTTINGS, a feature we have been developing for several years. OUR ROOTED CUTTINGS ARE READY FOR POTTING WHEN YOU RECEIVE THEM, CHEAPER BECAUSE YOU DO NOT PAY FOR POTS OR SOIL, OR NEEDLESS ADDITIONAL WEIGHT.

WE OFFER THE FOLLOWING ROOTED CUTTINGS

10 FOR \$7.50 POSTPAID, SPECIAL DELIVERY

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SNOW WHITE
RED VELVET
INNOCENCE
BLUE HEIRESS
SNOW GIRL

BLUE EYED BEAUTY
GORGEOUS BLUE WONDER
DBLE. SAILORS DELIGHT
DBLE. ORCHID GIRL
DBLE. SEA GIRL
DBLE. PURITY
DBLE. ROSE
DARK BEAUTY
AZURE BEAUTY
ROSIE O'GRADY

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WORM MANURE — 100% pure organic, no chemicals, use as fertilizer or add to potting soil. ½ pound can .85¢ P.P. 1 pound can \$1.35 P.P.

OUR NEW LIST — includes Leaves, Rooted Cuttings, Latest Growing Supplies.

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SPECIAL FOR \$5.00 —
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SELECT \$13.00 WORTH

— — — 50¢ EACH — — —

ALBINO . . . Shaded green and white foliage
APPLE BLOSSOM . . . Lavender eyed white du Pont
BLUE SHEEN . . . Mottled light blue and white
DOUBLE SAILOR GIRL . . . Full double light blue
DOUBLE SUNSET GIRL . . . Red flower, beautiful
foliage
FANTASY SUPREME . . . Large streaked flower
MAGNIFICO . . . Huge double orchid bicolor
PINK CHEER . . . Same as PINK FANTASY
PINK GIRL SUPREME . . . Large flower good bloomer
RUFFLED QUEEN . . . Fringed lav. flower du Pont
STAR GIRL . . . Blue version of PAINTED GIRL
TWINKLE . . . Star-like white on dark blue
VIOLET BEAUTY SUPREME . . . Huge flower good
bloomer

— — — 35¢ EACH — — —

BLUE STAR . . . Thick white star on blue
BRIDESMAID . . . Large light colored bicolor
BRUSSELS SPROUTS . . . Large unusual double
CRAZY QUILT . . . Unusual foliage growth
DOUBLE NEPTUNE SUPREME Huge double purple
flower
ECLIPSE . . . Blue shading out to white
FRINGED DOUBLE ORCHID . . . Fringed flower
dark foliage
GYPSY PINK . . . Clear pink, good bloomer
MIDNIGHT MISS . . . Dark blue du Pont Girl
PANSY BEAUTY . . . Orchid, all petals tipped lav.
PURPLE LACE . . . Very fringed dark purple
RED LADY . . . Very dark flower, girl leaf
TWILIGHT . . . Thin white star on blue
VELVET GIRL . . . Huge bicolor, beautiful foliage

— — — 25¢ EACH — — —

BLUE HEIRESS	MENTOR BOY SUPREME
BLUE TOP-KNOT	MULBERRY GIRL
CARMEN	NAVY BOUQUET
DBL GORGEOUS	PAINTED GIRL
BLUE WONDER	PINK DELIGHT
DOUBLE ROSE AND	PINK SHEEN
WHITE	RED GIRL HYBRID
DUBONNET	QUEEN BETTY
DUPONT DELIGHT	RED CHIEF
EVELYN BANKS	ROYAL GIRL
GORGEOUS SUPREME	RUFFLED BEAUTY
GRAND AWARD	S. DIPLOTRICHA SUPREME
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LACY GIRL	SAINTPAULIA TONGWENSIS
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LIGHT BLUE DUPONTULERY'S	ORCHID HYBRID

— — — 20¢ EACH — — —

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BLUE DELIGHT	GYPSY CURVACIOUS
BLUE EYED GIRL	LAVENDER EYED BEAUTY
DARK BEAUTY	ORCHID SPOON
DELIGHT	ORCHID SUNSET
DICKSON'S PURPLE	PERIWINKLE
DOUBLE BICOLOR	PURITY
DOUBLE NEPTUNE	PURITY NO. 2
DOUBLE ORCHID GIRL	RED VELVET
DOUBLE SEA GIRL	SAILOR GIRL
FANTASY	SAILOR'S DELIGHT
GENEVA RAINBOW	SAINTPAULIA GROTEI
LADY ULERY	SNOW PRINCE
NEPTUNE SUPREME	VIOLET BEAUTY
OPAL GIRL	VIOLET GLOW

HENRY TEN HAGEN

DEPT. MA

Visitors welcome at my greenhouse, located
one mile south of Warsaw on Route 19



FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Friends:

Those African Violet Magazine binders are so popular . . . we are temporarily sold out! However, more have been ordered and your requests will be filled as promptly as is possible.

Lost is now found -- Helen Potruff is the author of the poem "My Favorite Picture." Many thanks Helen!

The Members' Handbook will be mailed out to everyone in February or March. This change in date of publication will permit the correct listing of officers and chairman as of the first of each year. As it has been done in the past-- I seemed to have the cart before the horse--when it was issued in September--the old names were all mixed up with the new. Hope this pleases . . .

Another fine report on Cyclamen Mite by Harriet Lawton, Dorothy Felgar's account of Saintpaulias in the Southwest and the last installment of Nutrition of the African Violet will appear in the December magazine along with a number of other interesting African violet stories.

My new address is 4752 Calumet Drive, S. W., Knoxville 19, Tennessee . . . phone 8-5308. Thought maybe someone might be coming thru Knoxville and try to find me.

Hope you have had a pleasant summer and that your violets liked the summer weather too. As for me -- mine had a rough time--

Most sincerely,

Alma Wright

COMMUNICATIONS:

BACK ISSUES, CURRENT MAGAZINES, MAGAZINE BINDERS, CLUB PROGRAMS, write Alma Wright, P. O. Box 1326, Knoxville, Tenn.

AFFILIATED CHAPTER INFORMATION, write Ada Magill, 707 S. 4th Street, Aurora, Ill.

DUES: \$3.00 FOR 12 MONTHS.

RENEWALS AND NEW MEMBERSHIPS, should be sent to the treasurer, Boyce M. Edens, 2694 Lenox Road, N. E. Atlanta 5, Ga.

Please do not send renewals and new memberships to the editor.

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The African Violet Magazine is published quarterly by the African Violet Magazine Publishing Co., P. O. Box 1326, 201 W. Clinch Ave., Knoxville, Tenn. Entered as second class matter at Knoxville, Tenn., under the Act of March 3, 1879.



A Message to Local Societies

Here is the Convention Issue that many of you have been so eagerly waiting to receive! Here are many photos, messages and "friendly comment" that will help many to again relive this splendid meeting -- and perhaps leave others with a longing wish that they had attended, and with a good thought of planning for the coming Nashville convention. As mentioned before -- facilities may not be as large and I again would suggest that you make your plans known early on receipt of Convention call and literature for reservations which will be sent to you March 1953.

I want to further clarify some questions in regard to Affiliated Chapters. Mrs. E. G. Magill, 707 Fourth St., Aurora, Ill. is the Chairman. All correspondence should be sent to her as well as membership lists, copies of Constitution and By-laws and the annual affiliated chapter membership fee of \$2.50. I repeat the necessary qualifications for affiliation:

1. At least 25% of each Chapter's local members must also be members of the African Violet Society of America.
2. All officers of each Affiliated Chapter must be members of African Violet Society of America.
3. Each Affiliated Chapter must submit a copy of its Constitution and By-laws, and all amendments thereto, to African Violet Society of America.
4. Each Affiliated Chapter must submit a copy of its entire membership, including a list of the names and addresses of its officers to African Violet Society of America. Such list to be composed of the names and the addresses of all local members. These lists to be submitted once each year immediately after the election of new officers by Affiliated Chapters.
5. Each Affiliated Chapter must pay to African Violet Society of America an annual Membership Fee of \$2.50

In the past there has been some confusion concerning Commercial Members. Your Executive Board unanimously voted to clarify and change Article III, Section 4 of our By-Laws to read as follows:

Any person selling under 1,000 plants per year is eligible to compete as an amateur in local and National African violet shows. Anyone who manufactures or sells fertilizer, disease and insect control materials, equipment, tools, or any other merchandise pertaining to or applicable to growing African violets amounting to \$1,000 shall be considered commercial.

LOCAL SOCIETIES PLEASE NOTE: By unanimous action it was voted by the Board of Directors, beginning January 1, 1953 Affiliated Chapters only may retain the 50¢ now allowed on each membership in African Violet Society of America. Members of clubs which are not Affiliated Chapters will pay the full \$3.00. A hearty welcome is extended to all Local Societies to become Affiliated Chapters. Further notice of this change will appear in the December and March issues of your magazine.

Binders for the AFRICAN VIOLET MAGAZINE issues are still available, and more complete information may be found elsewhere in this magazine.

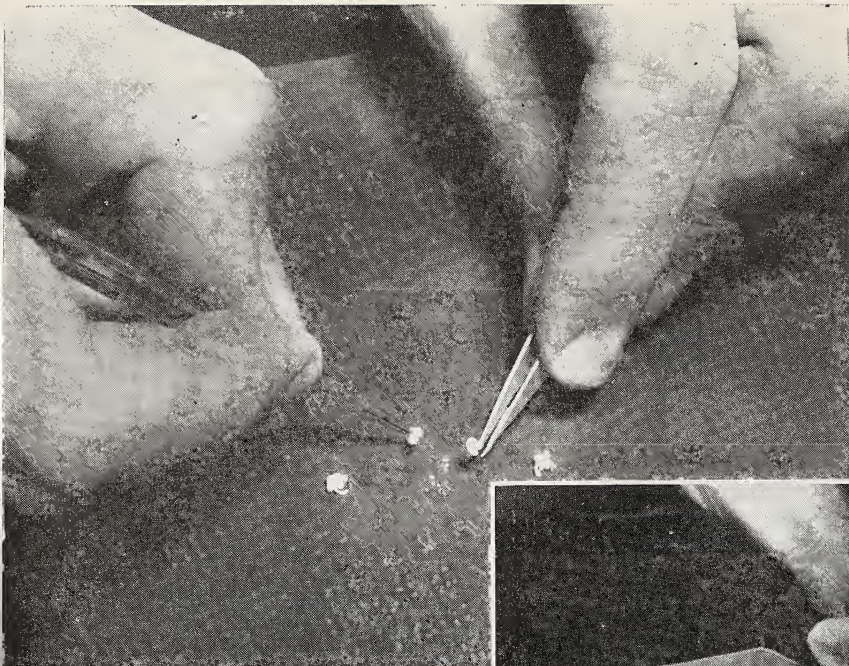
The African Violet Society of Greater Pittsburgh is sincerely commended for their fine contribution to our Research Fund. Congratulations to Mrs. D. E. Cabbage and her fine group!

Sincerely,

Floyd L. Johnson







POLLINATION—

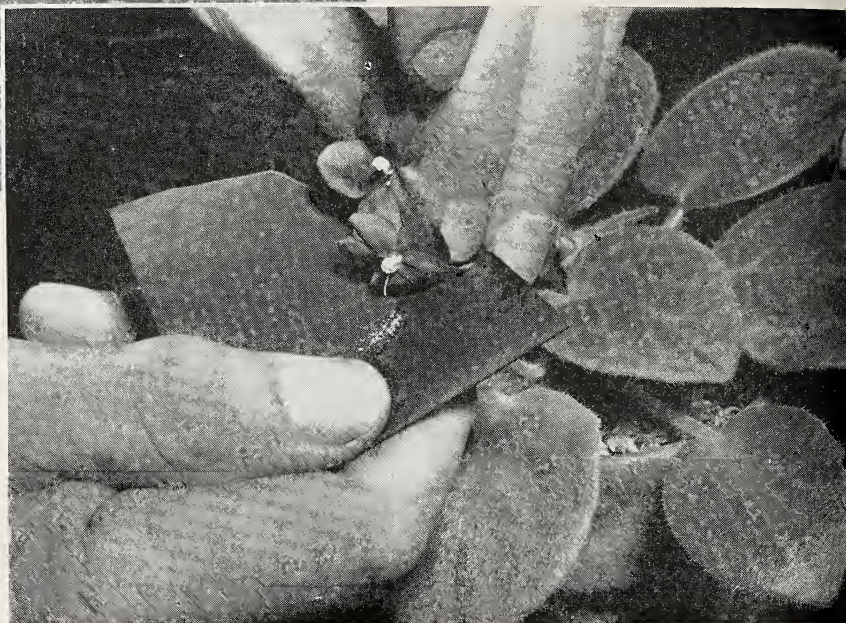
Pulling anthers apart so that pollen is shed on black paper.

From, ALL ABOUT AFRICAN VIO-
LETS

POLLINATION—

Pollen swept to edge of paper and flower bent over to dip stigma in it.

From, ALL ABOUT AFRICAN VIO-
LETS, by Montague Free



SPEAKING OF OPERATIONS

At every Convention which I have attended one or more speakers have given what amounted to a refresher course on how to propagate a Saintpaulia leaf and I here publicly confess that I was fearful lest "Speaking of Operations" would fall into that same category. In a way it was a refresher course, but I shall never be able to put into words all the interesting things it brought out. I might add that the address was hardly begun when Mr. Free said, "Will someone please de-light the room?" My heart sank to my toes because I was prepared to take notes with a mechanical pencil and it was so dark I couldn't see if the mechanics were working or not. You folks would have had a slim report if Mr. Free had not been kind enough to give me a copy of his speech.

As you may have assumed, the room was de-lighted in order to show slides, and Mr. Free had

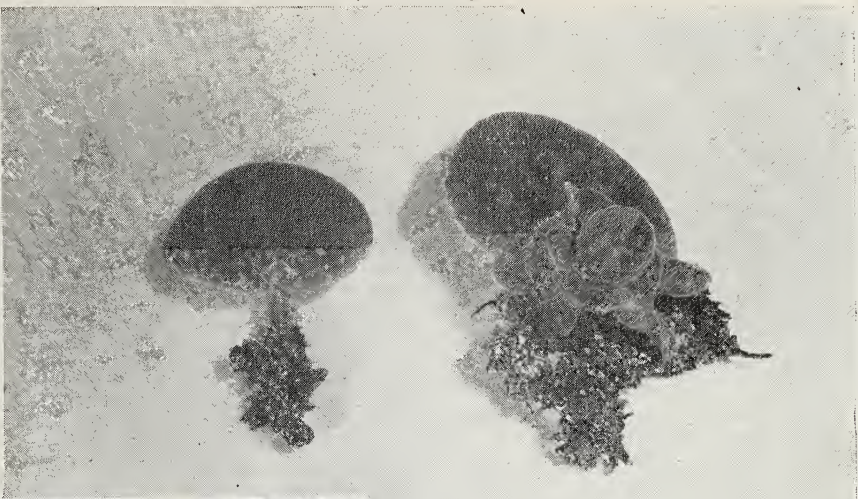
Florence Foltz, Pa.

an excellent slide to illustrate every single item in his address. I personally enjoyed it to the utmost.

The operations discussed were concerned with the five P's: pollination, propagation, potting, pruning and pest control. A close-up picture of a Saintpaulia flower showed the various parts in detail. At the tip of the pedicel were five greenish lobes . . . sepals, collectively known as the calyx which serves to protect the flower buds. Next was a brightly colored large, five lobed corolla . . . not petals as commonly called . . . which is designed to attract insects which serve as pollinators. In the center of the flower was the pistil consisting of ovary, style, with the stigma at its tip. Prominent near the base of the style were two-lobed stamens, the male element of the flower

You can't always tell how long it will take a leaf-cutting to make plantlets. Two leaves from same plant, taken same day, and inserted side by side.

From, ALL ABOUT AFRICAN VIOLETS



Seedlings: on right, transplanted 2 weeks after germination; on left, transplanted 3 months after germination. In background, a 2-year-old "dud".

From, ALL ABOUT AFRICAN VIOLETS

which produces the pollen. The style coyly veers off to the right or to the left as though trying to avoid self-pollination.

In order to bring about pollination and fertilization the pollen from the ripe stamens must be transferred to the stigma. There are various methods of doing this. One is to gather the pollen together on the edge of a piece of black paper, and dip the stigma in it. Some folks prefer to place pollen on the thumb-nail and transfer it to the stigma in this way. When the flower has been successfully pollinated the ovary begins to swell and after a wait of from five to nine months the seeds are ripe as evidenced by the browning of the capsule and withering of the pedicel.

Before attempting to cross Saintpaulias you should ask yourself several questions: (1) Have I room to grow a hundred or more seedlings to maturity? (2) Can I, without too much tearing of the heart-strings, ruthlessly discard many of the progeny which are no improvement over existing varieties? (3) Have I sufficient knowledge of Saintpaulia varieties to enable me to discriminate in this respect? "You'll be better off if you DON'T raise them from seed", stated the speaker, "but you'll miss a lot of fun."

Mr. Free suggested that the really ambitious person may want to try for an entirely different kind of plant by attempting a bi-generic hybrid. He showed a picture of RAMONDA PYRENAICA which looks like a Saintpaulia, and, more important, it belongs in the same plant family. If it were possible to get a successful hybrid between the Saintpaulia and Ramonda we might get a plant which would combine the cold resisting qualities of Ramonda which can endure zero temperatures, plus the free flowering habit of Saintpaulia.

Seeds may be sowed a week or two after the pod is ripe. Mr. Free uses a sandy soil mixture and has used both square mason jars and squatty pots in which to sow seeds. He prefers the latter because the seedlings are easier to remove from a pot than from a jar. His seedlings transplanted when only three or four weeks old made a faster growth than those transplanted at three months.

To propagate by leaf cuttings, Mr. Free has tried every way but prefers a cheese glass. He cuts the leaf with stalk one and one-half inches long and inserts it in cheese glass with one inch of water. The sides of the glass hold the leaf in position, keeps air humid in vicinity of the leaf



Montague Free and "reporter" Florence Foltz.

and no other support is necessary to hold the leaf upright. When babies have leaves about two inches long it is time to pot into 2½ or 3 inch pots in which they will bloom.

Another method of propagation is by stem cuttings of offsets. These should be taken off with a sharp knife when they have 4 or 5 leaves, and potted in a rather sandy soil mixture. Support with toothpicks and if air in room is dry, cover with a glass tumbler.

Still another propagation operation is the division of older plants. There is less danger of leaf breakage if the plant is allowed to get fairly dry before beginning the process. Turn the plant out of the pot by putting the hand over the ball of earth, tipping it upside-down and tapping the edge of the pot on the side of the table. Knead the soil ball gently to remove some of the surplus earth, turn the plant on its side and examine carefully to see where the divisions are between the crowns comprising the plant. If necessary cut through with a sharp knife at the point where they join, and then gently and carefully pull them apart. Repot in new soil in pots just large enough

Below, the right way to remove plant from pot.
From, ALL ABOUT AFRICAN VIOLETS

Propagation by cuttings, below.

Small offsets inserted in individual pots. Two in foreground held in place by toothpicks; one in rear covered with tumbler to maintain humidity.

From, ALL ABOUT AFRICAN VIOLETS





If you don't have a good sprayer the best way to get insecticide on the crowns is by "dunking". (1) First wrap a wet paper towel around plant's neck.

From, THE HOME GARDEN

to contain the roots. Water and keep in rather dense shade until they perk up and show no further signs of wilting. In connection with removing the plants from the pot, you will find that it is much easier if clean pots were used in the original potting. The roots of plants potted in dirty pots, or in WET pots are almost certain to stick to the sides of the pots which makes it very difficult to get them out.

Next operation discussed was potting, and instead of the usual means, Mr. Free told how he planted his strawberry jar with Saintpaulias. His jar is about 9 by 12 inches and he first inverted 2 or 3 nested $2\frac{1}{4}$ inch pots upside-down over the drainage hole. A long-tom rose pot serves well for this if you have one. On this a tin lid was placed, then a column of nested $2\frac{1}{4}$ inch pots right side up, high enough to reach the soil surface. Plants are watered by filling the core of empty pots to overflowing; the tin lid serves as a baffle to prevent water from running directly through the drainage holes and out of the jar without wetting the soil. In planting the jar the soil is first filled in up to the first tier of holes in the side of the jar; then the roots of the plants are put in from outside and soil filled in over them, pressed down lightly, until the next tier is reached, and so on until we come to the surface when three (3) plants are put at equal distances, standing vertically around the rim. Use plants from small pots. Because it is necessary to press the soil down fairly firmly in order to prevent

future settling of such a large bulk of soil, it is desirable to mix in about a quart of broken charcoal . . quarter-inch pieces . . . in order to insure adequate porosity and aeration.

The operation of pest control may involve surgery, medication or just plain euthanasia . . . mercy killing according to my dictionary . . . or in Saintpaulia language, "pitching the thing in the garbage." Root or stem rot, evidenced by a

Dunking (2)

This enables you to turn plant upside down, to dunk it in dish-pan of insecticide without losing any soil.

From, THE HOME GARDEN





Improved constant water level watering.

Roasting pan with layer of chicken grits topped by 1½ inches of sand. A 2¼ inch pot serves as filler and water gauge. Plant pots are pressed ¼ inch into sand.

From, ALL ABOUT AFRICAN VIOLETS

wobbly plant with rotted, discolored areas at the base, may be checked, if it has not gone too far, by dipping the plant in a fungicide made by mixing 2 tablespoons of Fermate in a gallon of water plus one-third teaspoon of Dreft, or by watering it with this fungicide, taking care to wet stem and leaf bases as well as drenching the soil. Better still, cut the plant off at the ground line, then cut off stem until you come to an area which is free of disease. Dust wound and nearby stem with a mixture of Dusting sulphur 90% and Fermate 10%, then put in cheese glass of water to root. If you don't care to go to all this trouble you can throw the plant out . . . which is perhaps the best thing to do. Don't forget to sterilize the thrown away portions by burning or boiling to prevent future trouble.

Then there are nematodes. If you get a plant which looks listless, with drooping lower leaves, flower stems gradually shortening, and no signs of mite or crown rot, you should suspect nematodes. If you turn the plant out of its pot and find that most of the roots are knotted and distorted, then the best thing to do is to dump the whole thing . . . pot, soil plant . . . in a hot fire. There are some new materials said to be effective for nematodes but Mr. Free said he hates to recommend them to amateurs because they are dangerous to use. Avoid nematodes by sterilizing soil and planting clean stock.

Because of the great difficulty of reaching insect pests and mites with the ordinary hand sprayer, Mr. Free advocates dunking when dealing with these pests. The method is to first wrap a wet towel around the neck of the plant so that

when it is inverted in the pan of the insecticide the soil doesn't come tumbling out. If insecticides such as NNOR, Optox, Spi-Tox and Marvel Sprayogen are mixed up according to directions on the packages, and plants are dunked in them every four or five days until the condition clears up, he believes that you can get rid of mites and all sucking insects without a great deal of trouble and without the use of the poisonous sodium selenate.

Last, but not least, we come to the operation of pruning. You should not let a plant get to the stage where it develops large offsets or separate crowns, but if you do have such, usually the best thing to do is to remove them with a sharp knife, cutting them close down against the main stem of the plant. The best way to prune to keep plants growing to a single crown is to poke out the developing offsets when they are no bigger than a little fingernail . . . smaller if possible . . . using the point of a pencil in order to gouge them out away from the main stem. Mr. Free is not convinced that regular pruning of the older leaves, as advocated by some growers, is a good thing. Theoretically, it is weakening to the plant, but if it has to be done, one should wait until there is a new rhythm of growth starting with a vigorous new crown coming up in the center of the plant.

Several views of Mr. Free's study, showing many of his plants gave us mute evidence that he knows "of which he speaks." His plants show that he has performed all his operations very well and has earned a mythical degree of P. S. (Plant Surgeon.)



Dr. Coryell.

FUNDAMENTALS OF AFRICAN VIOLET CULTURE

John S. Coryell

Asst. Professor of Horticulture
Kansas State College, Manhattan, Kansas

Ladies and Gentlemen, Fellow members of the African Violet Society of America. I am glad to be here, and to take part in this convention. I have been asked to discuss the "Fundamentals of African Violet Culture." I shall do so from the point of view of what is fundamental for the plant. Actually the real fundamentals are very remote from growing Saintpaulias. Any person possessing the following fundamentals can grow the finest plants. These fundamentals are patience, tolerance, humility, observation and understanding. Notice I have not mentioned love nor kindness. More African violets each year are killed by loving kindness than by neglect. Plants are machines, perhaps divinely created, which respond to the same physical and chemical stimuli as found in the operation of an automobile.

As I talk I would like to refer to the Automobile as a unit similar in operation to a Saintpaulia, regardless of species, or variety. The fundamentals of plant growth are as follows:

1. Adequate mechanical support
2. Constant temperature
3. Adequate light, in quantity and quality
4. A constant supply of atmospheric gases
5. Constant moisture
6. Constant supply of plant nutrients

These are not arranged in order of their importance. Omit any one of these items and you will fail. Over-supply of any of these items and you will also fail. Adequate mechanical support is supplied by the soil in which we grow our plants and hence does not need to be considered unless you grow the plants in a water solution.

Temperatures in our homes and apartments are kept around 70° F. Fortunately this is the ideal temperature for Saintpaulias. Fifteen degrees above or below 70° F will slow up growth and cause injury. Plants at 50° F will become cupped and yellow, and fail to grow or bloom.

Just as your automobile needs a constant supply of electrical energy to make the motor run, the plant needs sunlight, or other suitable light to furnish the energy necessary to produce the food for the plant. We can furnish gasoline as a source of energy in the automobile. The plant must manufacture its own food from light energy.

The current flowing into the battery from the charger, must be designed for the automobile battery, just as the sunlight must be modified for the African violet. When the battery is low the electrical charge may be much greater than when the battery is almost fully charged. The plant uses up its food reserve during the night, or transports it elsewhere during the dark period. In the morning this reserve is zero or very low. Full sunlight can be efficiently utilized for the first few hours, in food manufacture, while the transport of sugars is rapid. As the day proceeds the sunlight increases in strength, the plant cell slows up, and at noon the manufacturing process is almost at a standstill. The plant needs a rest,

Cont. on Page 53

The **COMMERCIAL** *EXHIBIT*

Edith Flory, N. Y.

Jenny Spoutz and Popular Gardening's Bob Davis.

All in all the Commercial Exhibit was one of the real highlights of our Chicago meeting. The members "simply love" to see and re-see the Exhibit time and time again. Why is this? The latest and best is there for them to study and compare—

Petersons of Cincinnati, Ohio had their display serve a two fold purpose. Shown were many varieties of African violets and Gloxinias. Shown also was a research set up on fluorescent lighting which demonstrated the proper distance -- 11 inches above the crocks that 300 power candle-light fluorescent light fixtures should be hung. There were large lettered cards telling what was

being done and where research projects were taking place. Studies in light intensity, crown rot, deficiency symptoms, temperature, nutrition, soil mixtures, watering and artificial light are being made. Mrs. E. R. Lotz, a member of the Scientific committee was in charge of setting up this exhibit which was pleasing to look at as well as educational.

Mrs. Rosa Peters, Grand Rapids, Michigan again had a most attractive display of well grown plants. Some of the varieties you will be interested in and wanting are Smiling Babe, Orchid Doilie, Blue Basket, Grotei Seedling, White

Rosa Peters Exhibit featured some huge and beautiful doubles. Nancy Carr was a handsome specimen plant.

African Violet Gift Sale
ROSA PETERS
1726 LEONARD ST. N.E.
GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN



Mary Meed's Select Violet House, exhibited some promising new seedlings in addition to her recent introductions.

Fischer's, Linwood, New Jersey-Violets of Tomorrow were handsomely displayed. Some of the plants shown will be available next season.



Velvet, Mascot and Nancy Carr -- named after the W L N star soprano.

Fischer's Flowers of Linwood, New Jersey had an eye-catching set up. Some of the plants shown were on display last year; such as Alma Wright (everyone is going to fall in love with this dainty tinted white African violet with the exquisite rosette blossoms -- will be available this fall), Blue Moon, Petite and Tear Drop a sweet little miniature. The new Ballerina Series, Minuet, Ballet, Bolero, Polonaise, Saraband and Carrousel are going to be popular. Most interesting too was Aurora a delicate ruffled blue diffused with white and Grand Award with its huge regal-blue double blossoms. The new seedlings available next year such as Double Lady Geneva, Double Rainbow

Geneva, a double resembling Duet blossoms -- very large with a lighter edge -- and of course many other new violet wonders!

The display by John R. Gent & Son, Webster, New York received many compliments. Naturally, Pink Cheer predominated in as much as they introduced it at this convention. Previous pictures had not done justice to the deep pink of the blossom. Other Gent seedlings gave promise of being hits at future meetings . . . Gloxinias and Streptocarpus which always go well with our violets added to the attractiveness of this exhibit. In the SALES ROOM at the Gent booth several hundred Pink Cheers were available for the members to purchase -- some were disappointed in not being able to get one.

Henry Peterson's display was a demonstration of the correct way to arrange fluorescent lights over plants on benches or tables. Shown in the demonstration were many of the well loved older varieties as well as a number of new introductions.



Different varieties of Gloxinias; *Trichosporum (aeschnanthus) lobbians* center of exhibit, a trailing cousin of the Saintpaulia, with hard waxy green leaves and bright orange-red flowers on the tip of the branches; several new seedlings and Pink Cheer made up the attractive Gent exhibit.



New seedlings by Helen Pochurek shown for the first time. Mrs. Pochurek's new address is Arthur Road, Solon, Ohio.

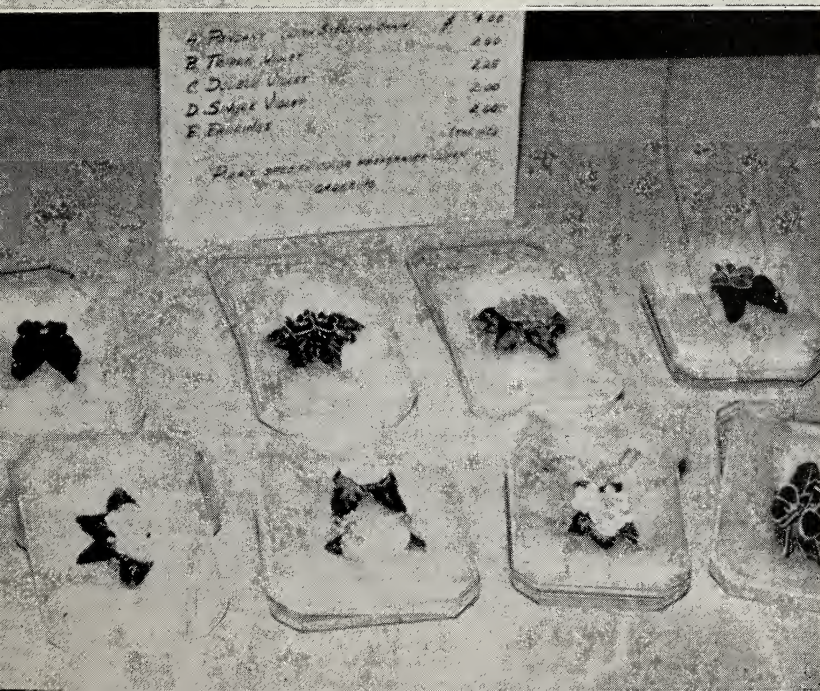




Ulery's Greenhouses had a splendid showing of their 1952 plants and many of the new Ulery varieties to be marketed next year.



A peek at Fischer Flowers commercial sales booth -- a popular place where many of their choice new plants were offered for sale. Pots and basket containers were also at the booth. Everyone seemed to like the opportunity of taking a plant or so home from the many sales booths.



Enjoyed was an artistic ceramic jewelry display by Mrs. Watson Green of New York. Pins, pendants and earrings were done in many pastel colors and in a number of graceful designs.



Taking time out from their commercial exhibit; to enjoy one of the interesting programs was Anne and Frank Tinari, center, of Tinari Floral Gardens. Prominent in the Tinari display was Pink Luster their 1952 Spring introduction.

The Select Violet House, Youngstown, Ohio had a number of new varieties for all to see. One plant which was interesting because it was named for our president was Floyd Johnson a lavender-pinkish seedling of du Pont origin. Mary Meed's exhibit also boasted other unusually worth while seedlings in addition to the new girls of the Gypsy Strain.

Ulery's Greenhouses of Springfield, Ohio displayed a number of "mouth watering" new things -- as yet without names. Among the named plants was a pretty red called Suprita which was popular and of course Ruffled Queen -- always a favorite everywhere.

Tinari Floral Gardens, Bethayres, Pennsylvania featured their Pink Luster, a sea shell pink and a profuse bloomer; also America, with the huge flowers; Helen Wilson Bouquet; Wine Velvet, a red; Navy Bouquet and Miss Liberty, a Geneva type flower with a girl leaf also Sugar Plum Girl, a Rainbow Geneva with a dainty girl leaf -- these to be released next year. Delaware and Marine Bouquet both also received much praise.

The Granger Gardens, Wadsworth, Ohio displayed their Saintpaulias on a black velvet background that was lovely. Varieties such as Robin Hood, Orchid Duchess, Royal Duchess, White Jewel, Pinocchio, Purple Velvet -- with a white fleck on the flower petals, Fantasy, Chantilly,

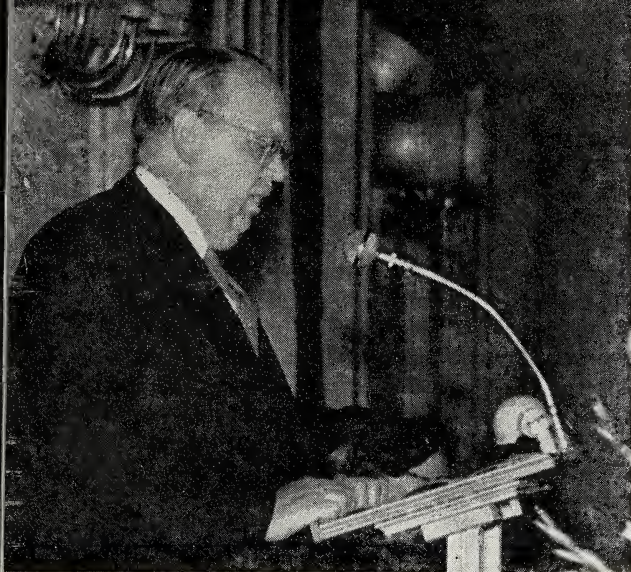
Dark Eyes, Winnie, and Dainty Duchess -- a white with pink shading . . . commanded attention. We will be waiting for these varieties to add to our collections.

Helen Pochurek, Solon, Ohio -- note the new address please -- exhibited a West Coast plant Royal Ripples. The very ruffled leaves and fluted blossom of this variety is most striking. Red Geneva Girl had a pretty red blossom with a white edge and several seedlings shown gave promise of future popularity.

Ferne Kellar of Des Moines, Iowa brought plants of Holly to show. With an attractive medium blue flower and very red -- purple coloring on the reverse of the leaves -- which were a dark copperish green similar to Ruffles in color -- the name Holly aptly describes this new Saintpaulia.

The ceramic jewelry from Mrs. Watson Green, Rochester, New York was very well designed and in wonderful soft colors. Pins, pendants and ear rings in several different African violet arrangements received much admiration.

One of the most satisfying parts of the Commercial Show and one of the most popular was the Commercial Sales Room -- where our various commercial members offered plants for sale. It was indeed a nice feeling to be able to see the plants and to purchase a few choice favorites to carry back home!



Dr. Carlton

I've been asked to talk to you today about hybridizing African violets. At first, I couldn't understand why I should be asked to talk on this subject until I wrote around to various authorities in an attempt to get some information on chromosome counts, transmission of color and other information pertinent to a sound discussion of this problem. Then I learned that nobody else knew anything either.

Seriously, I'm glad the title of today's talk was put as a question, "Shall We Hybridize?" But before we can begin to answer that question, we had better find out what we mean by hybridizing. To some people it means simply crossing flowers to produce seed. That idea can be easily dismissed because it just isn't right. To others, plant breeding in any form is hybridizing. But this covers too wide a field. Actually, hybridizing means simply the production of hybrids. Now all we have to do is to define what we mean by a hybrid.

Here we run into trouble. There are so many different ideas of what a hybrid is that we are utterly confused. To scientists in general, the only scientifically accurate definition is the production of a cross between two species, or rarely, between two genera. Some read the word variety into that definition, but this is late inclusion. A hybrid of this kind, to be recognized, must be intermediate in many of its characteristics between the two species from which it is descended. There are certain true hybrids in this sense which do not exhibit this blending of characters, due to the dominance of one species which impresses its pattern so strongly that the other species is masked. However, such hybrids in nature have practically no chance to be discovered unless the botanist working on them is also a geneticist.

The geneticist gives still another definition of hybrid. He calls a hybrid the offspring of the union between two plants which differ in their

SHALL WE HYBRIDIZE?

R. Milton Carleton, Research Director,
Vaughan's Seed Company
601 West Jackson Blvd.
Chicago 6, Ill.

genetic inheritance. In other words, a heterozygous plant. Thus a single gene different in one parent from its counterpart in the other would make the plant a hybrid.

Another definition, and up to a few years ago the only one familiar to the lay gardener, is simply a mixture containing a wide range of colors. This was foisted onto the public by European seedsmen, mostly German, who called anything a hybrid that gave a greater color range. An example of this is Robinson's Hybrid Pyrethrum, merely a mixture of many colors of the ordinary perennial Pyrethrum.

To further confuse us, an entirely opposed idea of a hybrid has become current during the past 10 to 15 years and today applies to about 90% of the hybrid plants in commerce. It is this definition which would apply most closely to the problem of breeding African violets, and so will be covered from this point on. The product of this type of breeding is called an F¹ hybrid, but is more accurately an inbred hybrid.

It is the offspring of two different inbred lines more or less uniform or homozygous in many of its characteristics. To produce it we start with individual plants that have some of the qualities we want. We may start with an unusually large flower, a peculiar type of foliage, double flowers, an extremely free-flowering plant or one resistant to insects.

The idea is to breed the plant to itself for several generations. This is possible because plants are both male and female, and most of them can be pollinated with their own pollen. If we need more seed than a single plant can produce, we can use sister plants propagated from cuttings, but never from seed. Each line we inbreed may perpetuate only one quality, though we try to fix as many as possible at a time.

Cont. on Page 63



THE SILVER CUP AWARD —

To the plant Red Waves, entered by Mrs. George Pendleton of Kansas City, Missouri. Mrs. Pendleton is the originator of the prize winning variety Red Waves having introduced and registered it some time ago.

AWARDS for 1952



HONORARY ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP AWARD (1 year) —

To Mrs. Carolyn Rector of San Pedro, California for her outstanding work with African violets and for her origination and introduction of the Pacific Strain of Saintpaulias.



THE CERTIFICATE OF BRONZE MEDAL AWARD —

To Helen Van Pelt Wilson in recognition of her continued devotion to the Society in her stories and books on Saintpaulias. Miss Wilson's latest book *AFRICAN VIOLETS* was published in September 1951 and is dedicated to the African Violet Society of America.

OTHER AWARDS WERE GIVEN AS FOLLOWS

The CERTIFICATE OF BRONZE MEDAL AWARD (posthumously) to Mrs. W. K. duPont for her meritorious horticultural achievement in originating the du Pont Strain of Saintpaulias.

The HONORARY ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP AWARD (1 year) to Harriet F. Lawton, Longmeadow, Massachusetts for her stories and un-

tiring effort in behalf of the African Violet Magazine. Also, to Mrs. James B. Carey, Fountain City, Tennessee for her distinctive contribution as chairman of the Committee on Show Preparation and Judging which set the pattern for qualifying judges for the Society.

POPULAR GARDENING ANNUAL SWEEPSTAKES AWARD—

To Mrs. H. Hotchkiss for the most firsts and blue ribbons for her entries in the Amateur Show.

Right, Mrs. Hotchkiss and Floyd Johnson.





Blue ribbon exhibit of the Roseonna Chapter of Chicago.

The Amateur Show

Lois Minehan, N. Y.

This will be a brief glimpse into the room where the Educational Exhibits, seedlings, Club Projects and Amateur plants were displayed.

The Educational Exhibits were in three sections, namely: Plant Propagation, Soil and Plant Foods, and Arrangements.

The table for "Propagation" was arranged in a series of steps showing in clear detail the progress from seed to flowering plant. This display won the Gold Ribbon for the Roseonna Chapter of Chicago. The Elite Club of Chicago won a Red Ribbon for their display of Soil and Plant Foods used in raising African violets.

The First African Violet Club of Chicago won a Blue ribbon with table arrangements. Various

arrangements depicted the twelve months of the year such as January being Friendship month using a hand painted sugar bowl filled with a violet plant. The month of February was indicated by a red heart container with plants and for March a man's large brown china pipe had a violet planted in the bowl and a tiny shamrock was held above the flowers on a pipe cleaner. A pink violet was planted in a turquoise egg shell for April. May was designated as Mother's Day and a blue ceramic tea cup and saucer imprinted with the word "Mother" was used. June was given over to Father's Day with a Toby Jug containing father's favorite violet. July featured the Fourth and this was done by using a dark blue china hat that had been covered with red and white stars.

Seedlings on display.





**Kay's Quilted entered by Lyle
Resser won two ribbons.**

A white pipe cleaner with a tiny firecracker was added for more color. August was the Birthday Month and a two-tiered white frosted cake was used with pink candles around the edges of the cake. The hollow center of the upper layer was planted with a "Pink Girl." September was Baby Month and a carriage filled with violets appeared to be pushed by a china figurine. Naturally, October depicted Hall'owe'en with a small china pumpkin filled with violets. Some lucky person owning a lovely china Turkey planted with a violet was the Thanksgiving motif. December featured a Santa Claus jug in which there was a violet and in this a pipe cleaner with a tiny silver Christmas tree was perched on top.

Next came the seedlings, and as one of my Pigeons was entering some of his little beauties I was especially interested. The foliage on the majority of these plants seemed to be of the "Girl" type. The Purple Ribbon and year subscription to Flower Grower went to Margaret Travis, Knoxville, Tenn. Two Blue ribbons were awarded to John Stebbins, of Bangor, Mich., and Mrs. Sam Nichols of Madison, Tenn. Mr. Stebbins' had deep reddish purple blossoms with heavy bronzy "Girl" foliage. Mrs. Nichols plant had red blossoms with large light green "Girl" leaves. Mrs. Layson of Maysville, Ky. won a red ribbon with her seedling, and Margaret Travis also won a red ribbon.

Class 4, Purples: Norma Hansen of Evanston, Ill. won the Blue ribbon and also the National Award of Merit (Purple for her Mentor Boy.)

Class 5, Whites: Mrs. Hotchkiss of Peoria, Ill. won a Purple ribbon for her White Lady and also a Blue ribbon for a White Sport -- second generation.

Class 6, Doubles: Norma Hansen won the National Award of Merit on her Double Russian.

**Below, Mrs. Cooper with Sea Girl, winner of a
Blue ribbon.**



Two Blue ribbons were awarded to Mrs. Mason of Peoria, Ill. and Mrs. Capper of Ky.

Class 7, Pinks: Norma Hansen of Evanston, Ill. won the White Honorable Mention ribbon and the Blue ribbon for her Pink Beauty.



Last minute inspection and arrangement before the show was opened.

By now you have noticed that Norma Hansen won quite a few awards. One of the ladies on the committee told me that she is a young housewife with three small children. You can imagine how thrilled she was to win all of these grand awards for her lovely plants. In fact, while I was gathering this data she came into the room and when she learned how many ribbons she had won her eyes filled with happy tears.

Class 8, "Girls": Mrs. Sam Nichols of Tenn. and Mrs. Edwin Carlson of Richford, Ill. won the Blue ribbons.

Class 8, Orchids and Bi-Colors: Mrs. Homer Foltz won a White Honorable Mention on her Lady Slipper, and Mrs. Edwin Carlson of Rockford, Ill. also won the White Honorable Mention Ribbon. Mrs. R. Kupjack of Park Ridge, Ill. won the blue Ribbon for her Violet Beauty.

Class 10, Collection of three different varieties of registered plants: The First Award and Award of Merit went to Norma Hansen for collection of Lacy Girl, White Watelily and Mentor Boy. Second place won by Mrs. Sam Nichols of Tenn.

Class 11, Blue: The Chicago Gold Ribbon and Blue Ribbon was awarded to Lyle Resser, Geneseo, Ill. for his plant of Kay's Quilted. This was a most beautiful plant and I am hoping that a picture of it will appear in our magazine as words just can't describe it.

Class 12, Duponts, Amazons and Supremes: Mrs. Boles won a Purple Award of Merit for Dorothy Ovesend and Dupont Silver Pink won a White Honorable Mention Ribbon for Mrs. R. Kupjack, Park Ridge, Ill.

Class 13, Unusual Containers: A Blue Ribbon was won by Norma Hansen for her plant of Mentor boy arranged on a small iron scales.

Class 16, Red: The SILVER CUP went to Red Waves entered by Mrs. George Pendleton, Kansas

City, Mo. She also was awarded a Blue Ribbon and the Award of Merit. Norma Hansen also received an Honorable Mention (White Ribbon).

The Popular Gardening Annual Sweepstakes Award went to Mrs. H. Hotchkiss, Peoria, Ill. for the most firsts and blue ribbons.

Class 14, Club Projects: This was one of the most interesting phases of the show for me, and I only wish that I could do all of them justice in describing them. The African Violet Society of Downers Grove, won a Red ribbon for their "Girls." This display was a round tiered standard containing fifteen different flowering "Girl" plants. I do hope a picture of these displays will appear in our magazine.

"A Date At Nine" won the Chicago Red ribbon. A large white satin clock had purple violets in place of figures on the clock face and the hands showed 9:00 o'clock. Around the top of the clock six plants showed their blossoms and at the base other plants had been concealed in the standard so only the blossoms appeared. In front of the clock laying on the table were a pair of long white kid gloves which had a corsage of violets in tulle at the wrist. (Somehow in the shuffles of taking notes, I haven't the name of the Club that did this lovely display, but perhaps our editor, Alma Wright, will be able to supply it.)

"Family Tree of the Gesneriaceae," African Violet Society of Aurora won a Yellow ribbon. This project took a great deal of thought, research and work. It dealt with the species and ribbons connected the various families.

"Inspiration," First African Violet Society of Chicago. Chicago Gold ribbon was awarded. One side of the table held an easel and in place of a picture on the supports there was a shadow box with a mirror as the background. In the center of the shadow box a beautiful violet plant was

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"THE DOCTOR DIAGNOSIS"

Emily Hodan and Cameron Conant, Ohio

Mrs. Marie Mooar, who is instructor of Botany and Pathology at Michigan State College, spoke to the convention delegates Thursday afternoon, April 24th. The subject of her talk was, "The Doctor Diagnosis."

Her main object is research in the field of various Saintpaulia ills. People send sick plants to her to identify the particular disease and ask for a remedy.

Now in her work along these lines, she has found three types of Saintpaulia growers or fanciers.

1. The commercial type, who grow Saintpaulias strictly as a business.

2. The fashionable type, who simply must buy and grow Saintpaulias because it is the fashionable thing to do, since Saintpaulias rate so highly as favorite houseplants.

3. The type who grow them because "they love them" and she was quite certain she was speaking to this third class today.

Mrs. Mooar emphasized the fact that a plant will not get ill if it grows properly and is cared for correctly. But sometimes the growth or growing medium becomes unbalanced and then trouble begins. Often it shows up in a wilted plant, dull leaves hanging limply over the edge of the pot. What caused this? Perhaps it was the use of water softener, perhaps the wrong kind of soil mixture, or perhaps too much fertilizer. What to

do? It was recommended to thoroughly soak out the softener or excess fertilizer, using distilled water if available, then to transplant into new soil, using a minimum of fertilizer.

Now another cause of wilt in plants may be due to root rot or wilt organism. What to do in this case? Examine the roots; if the main root stalk is soft, a plant may sometimes be saved by cutting well above the rotted area, then disinfecting with a fungicide such as Dithane, Z78. Use a proportion of 1 teaspoon to 1 gallon of water and dip the plant. Then transplant into a new pot, using new sterilized soil. Caution: Do NOT throw old soil on to the compost pile, as it may contain wilt spores that would contaminate good earth.

Sometimes we find a plant that shows nodules or bumps on the stems, or more commonly, on the roots. Immediately the suspicion, "nematodes" looms on the horizon; isolate this plant at once as this disease spreads worse than fungus diseases. Nematodes themselves are distinguished under the microscope as small eel like worms. A great deal of research has already been done and more must still be carried on to find a successful remedy.

Now we come to the nightmare of the Saintpaulia grower, namely "Mite." Mite is a tiny, pale green transparent insect visible under the microscope. It causes a plant to become distorted, the center leaves are extremely hairy and fuzzy, eventually forming a hard center core.

First Remedy: Use Parathion as a dip, 1 teaspoon to 1 gallon of water, immersing plant in pail containing insecticide, and allowing to remain until air bubbles stop. Then remove pot and set in a protected place out of direct sun, until dry.

Second Remedy: Use Sodium Selenate: dissolve 1 gram to 1 gallon of water. Of this solution, use about 2 oz. to a 4 inch pot. Or if one prefers, one may use the capsules already made up. Be sure to follow instructions.

Saintpaulias are also subject to fungus diseases, the most common of which are crown rot, powdery mildew, or botrytis blight.

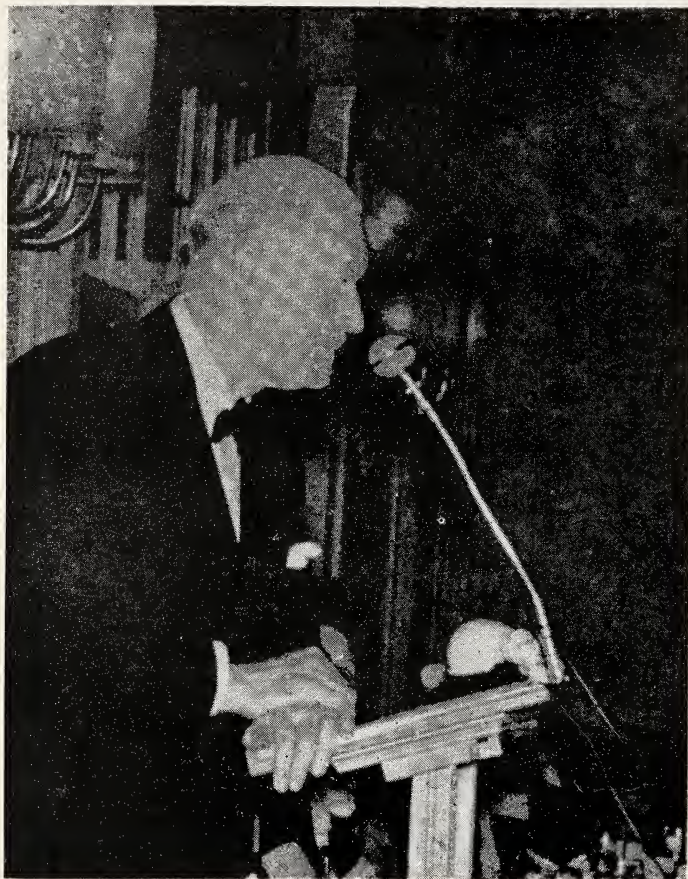
- a. The first of these, crown rot, is sometimes caused by lack of moving air. Be sure to set plants in such a way that air can circulate freely all around them.
- b. The second, powdery mildew, shows up as a fine white powdery substance on the leaves or petioles. These mildew spores grow rapidly and infect other plants. Remedy for this: use Dithane as a dip.

Mrs. Mooar



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SAINTPAULIA IN AMERICAN HORTICULTURE



Friday evening at the Dinner Meeting -- Dr. W. H. Camp, President of the American Horticultural Council addresses the Society.

Ruth Dahnke, Kans.

Members who attended the convention in Chicago were indeed fortunate to have the privilege of hearing Dr. W. H. Camp, President of the American Horticultural Council. Dr. Camp's subject was, "Saintpaulias in American Horticulture." It is impossible to project his personality in a review.

Dr. Camp seemed to concede the fact, we couldn't discipline ourselves to the term "Saintpaulia," but would prefer we adopt "Usambara violet" rather than "African violet." The region in Africa would then be denoted in the name. Though not willing to accept just the name "violet," he compared it to his own nickname "Red" and said he was still called Red, "long after it

had fallen out." He said he knew those people had known him a long time ago so he understands when we say "violet" -- he knows we are very familiar with the plants ! !

Dr. Camp said he is a botanist who entered horticulture by the back door and is known by some as a botanist and others as a horticulturist.

The language of flowers is universal—When visiting in Sweden, he met a carpenter who was very interested in plant life. Though Dr. Camp said his Swedish has a Bronx accent, they were able to converse because they actually spoke the same language by using the Latin names. In Sweden, all students study botany in high school.

Dr. Camp entered "forbidden territory", where 18 months before, 23 white men had been killed by the natives. He said, "If they didn't like you they would take that thing off your shoulders and debone it." He was able to increase the few words he knew of their language because of horticulture and was invited in because he was interested in flowers and not gold.

In Alaska, across from White Pass, he visited a greenhouse and again because of the common bond of flowers, they were soon on his favorite subject. His visits are to greenhouses from the Tropics to the Arctic.

Dr. Camp mentioned a plant they are working on in Los Angeles, to relieve high blood pressure, though they are having trouble getting it to propagate. He said it was a tricky little plant; almost as hard to grow as an African violet in a south window . . . He was sorry he had not been to the Usambara Valley so he could tell us how much better it grows in cultivation, as do most plants. He asked, "Did you ever wonder how those little plants grew wild without getting water on their leaves?" There are 11,000 species that belong to the same family. Dr. Camp related an incident concerning another member of the Gesneria family—

Rather than being assigned to a destroyer, he was put off on an island in the Caribbean, to clear, plow and plant 10,000 acres. Two boatloads of equipment had been sunk by submarines so they had to do the work by hand. A search for the submarine base had been fruitless. Dr. Camp entered the search and climbed to the top of a range that dropped off almost perpendicular. He lay there looking down on the submarine base. His screen of protection was a heavy growth of *Episcias*. (A true botanist to identify plants at such a time.)

America has over half the *Gesneria* species in the world but the African violet is one of the best adapted to live happily on a window sill.

African violets have brought beauty into homes in a manner beauty has not been there before but Dr. Camp likes other plants with African violets, to set them off.

In his own greenhouse, he uses incandescent lights with fluorescent lights and added, "That is what we think this week." When asked why, he added incandescent lights -- he said he wished he knew because he could be famous! He did explain it was some wave length you get with incandescent lights you do not get from blue, white or red light. He never worries about watering his plants because he has automatic watering in the benches and automatic ventilation.

To the Society, he said, "Do not turn your nose up at one who grows other plants along with their African violets!"

Fluorescent lights are the coming thing. It will be a second field of horticulture. People in apartments may enjoy the same window garden privileges as people in the suburbs. Flower lovers who do not have windows in homes, now have plants under artificial light.



"Reporter" Dahnke

His reference to the "Red slip", was the class in the show for registered, named varieties. He said he noticed it "WITH GLEE," and added the plant winning the SILVER CUP was grown under fluorescent light with some daylight . . .

Dr. Camp feels we should be firm in insisting on plants being registered and though at first there may be disagreement we should not give in. Botanists have formed an International Committee with some ideas for registration. They will meet in London in September of this year and hope to enact laws that will make plant societies the "power of truth." By registering, it proves it is not a plant to fool people; it has been properly examined and should be described by more than one grower. Some one in authority should see it, then you know what you are getting and a registered plant should be designated as such.

Dr. Camp congratulated the African Violet Society of America for its fine work and the fact it is next to the largest plant society in the world. The Rose Society is just a little larger -- He told us we have the responsibility to uphold standards. English horticulturists can not believe there is a society to grow the little plants with the blue flowers but in a few months, Dr. Camp hopes to prove to them the African Violet Society is the largest plant society in America!

He left us with, "You are doing something not done previously in American horticulture by growing plants where they have not been grown before. You have better living around you where you have a pot of African violets. May continued growth and success be yours, and may God Bless You!"

We are indeed indebted to the Program Committee for the privilege of hearing Dr. Camp!

RESEARCH WORK

THUS FAR

H. G. Harvey, Ga.

A report on research work during the past year was presented to the Convention Saturday morning, April 26, by a panel led by Mr. Henry Peterson. Considerable advance interest in this report has been produced by a statement Thursday by Dr. W. H. Camp, President of the American Horticultural Council in his talk on "Saintpaulia in American Horticulture" that the research program of the African Violet Society was the best and most far reaching of any sponsored by a National Floral Society. This expert opinion from an extremely competent unbiased observer was substantiated by the Saturday symposium. The presentation more than lived up to its advance billing.

The research group at Ohio State University hit a jackpot this year in their study of the growth of African violets under fluorescent lighting. This method was first introduced by amateurs, and if it develops the importance that seems probable after the report of the work done at Ohio State, the article by Fay Stillwell in the September, 1949 issue of the African Violet Magazine will have considerable historical interest as being the first report in print of this method of growing the plant.

The 1951-52 fluorescent light experiments at Ohio State were reported by Mr. R. H. Hanchey. Mr. Hanchey is an Associate Professor of Horticulture at Louisiana State University, on loan to the Ohio State University. He raised groups of African violets under different intensities and durations of fluorescent lighting, and compared them with similar groups raised under different intensities of natural sunlight in a greenhouse. All conditions except the lighting were carefully held the same, the same variety (Orchid Wonder) was used, the same soil, the same age, the same



Henry Peterson, chairman of scientific committee.

fertilizer, so that the differences were entirely caused by the difference in lighting. The fluorescent light illuminated plants were raised in a basement, where the temperature was held at 65 degrees, and the relative humidity at 60 per cent.

The leaf cuttings for all of the plants was struck in May, 1951. They were potted in 2½" pots on July 1. They grew temporarily in a greenhouse until August 2. Then they were separated into groups and subjected to the different lighting conditions. On October 6, they were all shifted to 4" pots. Growth was reported up to February 1, 1952.

The fluorescent light intensities used, varied from 100 foot candles to 600 foot candles. The times the lights were on varied from 6 hours per day up to 18 hours per day. As would be expected, intensities of 100 foot candles for either 6, 12 or 18 hours per day did not work out satisfactorily. The plants lived, and produced leaves, but flowers were few and far between. Three hundred foot candle intensity (our good old amateur standard, produced by two forty watt fluorescents, either white or daylight, mounted in a fixture about 12 inches above the rim of the pots) was good. Six hours exposure was, however, not enough, 12 hours was satisfactory and 18 hours was considerably better. Six hundred foot candles intensity was fine. This obtained by using two 85-watt white or daylight fluorescent tubes in a reflecting fixture, mounted about the same distance above the plants as the 40-watt tubes are. That is, about 12 inches from the rim of the pots to the actual fluorescent tube. The 85-watt tube is about 60 inches long, as contrasted to the 48 inches of the 40-watt tube, so the fixture is about a foot

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GARDENING WITH BACTERIA

A TALK GIVEN BY PHILLIP WELLS, FELLOW ROYAL
HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY, HADDON HEIGHTS, N. J.

Lewis Cook, N. Y.

Doctor Wells began his talk by answering the prize winning questions about humus. He stated it was very necessary to use soil in a compost pile -- not necessarily good soil -- soil from waste places can be used. The heat developed during composting tends to kill disease germs as temperatures of 140 to 160 Fahrenheit or higher are produced. Tomato plants and fruit infected with blight were composted. The blight was destroyed and not present in the compost.

Man needs to co-operate with nature. All nutrients necessary for growing plants are provided by nature. We need to follow nature's laws in organic gardening. If properly used the garbage of New York City would fertilize 230,000 acres. Wastes from all living things can be used in composting.

The gardner should possess a keen sense of humus. Humus is raw material. Compost is well decayed humus. In the parable of the sower, seed falling on good ground, that is soil containing organic matter, increased one hundred fold. More than fertilizer is needed for plant growth. Air, bacteria, moles and earthworms help. The use of organic fertilizers illustrates the law of return or the cycle of life. Growing plants take certain elements from the soil and by using compost the usual elements are replaced. When a man does not follow nature's laws, dust storms and floods result and he has destroyed the fertile top soil.

Compost may be made in two places, in the soil itself or in a compost heap. When the organic matter is added to the soil the process takes longer than in the compost heap.

Lawn clippings, leaves, stalks, of beans, corn or flowers, or any plant material may be used. Stalks of larger plants, such as hollyhocks, require two years to decay if left whole but when broken up or shredded, offer larger areas for bacterial action and so decomposition takes place quickly. Use green plant material whenever possible. Bacteria, not man make compost. Animal manure should be added to the plant material. Add soil and mix them thoroughly together. Moisten completely to the consistency of a squeezed out sponge. Air is also necessary for some bacteria. A wire chimney in the center of the pile will provide ventilation. Lime may be added to prevent the formation of acid compost. It should be sprinkled over each six inch layer. Finely crushed oyster shells provide all the trace elements needed for plant growth. Ground potash rock should also be sprinkled over each six inch



Philip S. Wells.

layer of the organic matter and soil mixture. It is wise to add bacteria to speed up action. Within 48 hours changes have taken place and good compost will be formed in three months.

Compost should be used in the top six inches of soil, the aerobic bacteria (the ones needing air) are in this area. Anerobic bacteria (they make their oxygen out of organic matter) are below this depth. 300 million bacteria are present in a grain or pinch of good soil while the same amount of compost contains two billion bacteria. Bacteria in the soil eliminates certain diseases and organisms. The so called milky disease or bacteria destroys Japanese beetles in the soil.

An excellent potting soil may be made by using one part compost, one part soil and one part sand. This is a good mixture for Saintpaulias and will make them happy!

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Questions and answers submitted and given by Philip S. Wells at Chicago Convention African Violet Society of America, April 1952.

The Committee decided which were the questions to receive the first and second prizes; the

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REGISTRATION REPORT

Neil C. Miller

PART I

The following applications have been received during the period March 11, 1952 to July 1, 1952. No objections to registration are apparent.

PLANT AND REGISTRANT

Alma Wright 6-20-52

Fischer's Flowers

Linwood, New Jersey

"A double flowered white Saintpaulia with symmetrically formed, medium sized blossoms, is small, light green and slightly quilted. The habit of this plant is neat and restricted. A sexual propagation produces plants true to the parent line, without variation of flower or leaf characteristics."

Autumn 5-14-52

Mrs. Byrdena Woodley

Maltbie Road

Gowanda, New York

"A double, dark purple bloom. Very full petaled and under best conditions shows minute splashes of rose pink. The large dark leaves are deeply waved or rippling, and varnished in appearance. If plant is given intense light -- which it likes -- the backs of the leaves have the red coloring of autumn foliage."

Blossom Hill 6-11-52

Mrs. A. J. Waller

15940 Blossom Hill Road

Los Gatos, California

"This is a seedling with foliage somewhat like Rainbow Geneva. The blossoms of this plant are the distinctive difference, for they are a lovely red. Some of the blossoms have a fine white edge around petals while others have white markings. The younger blooms are very dark red."

Brussels Sprouts 6-29-52

Fischer's Flowers

Linwood, New Jersey

"A novelty definitely in a class by itself. The super-double blooms are deeply fringed and have petals that are almost leafy in texture. Color varies from silver green on the underside to deep purple in the centers of the flowers. Blooms seldom fully open but instead remain as miniature "Brussels Sprouts."

Cornucopia 5-20-52

Mrs. R. B. Reaume

and

Mrs. A. C. Foster

16508 Fairmount Drive

Detroit, Michigan

"Dark green crenated leaf lobed at base with large white rayed area extending into the white-backed, pinched and folded tubular blade. Medium sized dark blue flowers, standing well above the foliage, with upper petals and lip cupped. Floriferous, compact, upright growth. Mature plant approximately eight inches in diameter."

Cranberry Girl 5-8-52

Mrs. W. Duff Wilson

408 S. Tennessee Avenue

Martinsburg, West Virginia

"It has dark velvety leaves and a big dark red rich blossom. The shape of blossom is large, like the original Blue Girl -- and was the parent of the seedling."

Crimson Halo 4-7-52

Mrs. LeRoy Human

320 Niagara Street

North Tonawanda, New York

"Crimson Halo, a red flower of medium size, not quite as red as Red King, but with a decided dark red halo around the eye of flower. The two upper petals are slightly darker than the lower ones, but the halo is the feature that makes this flower different and distinctive. The leaf is light green, smooth, toothed and dentated -- varying from heart shape to a rather long leaf with reddish petioles."

Dixie Queen 5-5-52

Mrs. Kenneth H. Patterson

Route 4

Hagerstown, Maryland

"Leaves -- Medium green on top, light green underneath. Large white spot at base with white veins extending well into leaf. Leaf is broad at base and pointed at tips, notched edges. Growth -- slightly upright with reddish leaf stems. Flower -- orchid with top petals a trifle darker than lower. Top petals more definitely separated from lower than most varieties. Flower is large, slightly fringed and cupped, has frosty appearance and is long lasting. Held well above leaves on long stems."

Fairy Boats 4-7-52

Oliver H. Pease

1913 Tonawanda Avenue

Akron 5, Ohio

"Grown from Friendly Garden seed. Probably a cross of Neptune and Gorgeous. Contour of leaves is egg shaped. Leaves curl up until 1/4" of back of leaf shows completely around the edge. Blooms are dark blue with light red shading at edges. An excellent bloomer but requires above average lighting."

Fantasy Girl 5-10-52

Behnke Nurseries

Wash. Balto. Blvd.

Beltsville, Maryland

"The prettiest Girl of real Fantasy coloring Lavender background, splashed, dotted, rayed distinct blue and purple. Foliage similar but heavier than Pink Girl's. Same growing habit. Seedling Fantasy x Pink Girl. Blossoms more cupped than Fantasy's. Typical ever-sporting, free blooming. Medium sized plant."

Fischer's Aurora 6-29-52

Fischer's Flowers

Linwood, New Jersey

"Flowers are a most delicate blue, subtly diffused with a bending white. Back of petals are also tinted white and blooms have a slight decorative fringe. Blossoms are borne on reddish purple stems. The whole color effect, silhouetted on the bright green leafy field, is most striking. Plants are exceptionally free flowering and blossoms hold well."

Fischer's Ballet 6-20-52

Fischer's Flowers

Linwood, New Jersey

"Gleaming white selections of several of the loveliest seedlings."

Fischer's Bolero 6-29-52

Fischer's Flowers

Linwood, New Jersey

"Deep, dark and velvety in regal purple hues, this plant displays the fringed petal edge far better than old varieties."

Fischer's Carrousel 6-29-52

Fischer's Flowers

Linwood, New Jersey

"Lavender-blue flowers in a gay blend of color."

Fischer's Minuet 6-29-52

Fischer's Flowers

Linwood, New Jersey

"A light mauve, fringed and floriferous. Like all members of this series, both petals and leaf edges have the characteristic wavy edge."

Fischer's Polanaise 6-29-52

Fischer's Flowers

Linwood, New Jersey

"Sprightly ruffles on a light blue field."

Fischer's Saraband 6-29-52

Fischer's Flowers

Linwood, New Jersey

"A lively red lavender with an undulant fringe. The marked waviness and bright color make this a particularly appealing plant."

ALL AGLOW was originally called **FLAMINGO**, but, upon discovery of the conflict with a registered plant carrying a very similar name it was renamed **ALL AGLOW**.

All Aglow 5-10-52

Behnke Nurseries
Wash. Baltimore Blvd.
Beltsville, Maryland

"Gorgeous coral pink cupped blossoms on tall strong stems have dark bronzy girl foliage. The deepest pink. Seedling Pink Girl and numerous crosses. Good-sized blooms, quick and prolific bloomer. Medium size plant."

Grand Award 6-29-52

Fischer's Flowers
Linwood, New Jersey

"A stately blue which was judged best unnamed double seedling at 1951 National African Violet Convention. Flowers are large doubles, measuring up to 1½ inch in diameter. The color -- a gorgeous royal blue. Many blooms also retain the distinctive yellow eye. With profuse flowering and heavy, yet supple foliage, this plant is rich in aspect."

Grape Wine 4-17-52

The African Violet Nook
714 West Central Avenue
Carthage, Missouri

"It is a cross between Amethyst and Moire. Leaves are very dark, quilted, crenated edges, and rosy red on underside. Blossoms are a penetrating true wine that do not fade. There are seven to eight blossoms on each stalk. The overall effect of Grape Wine is a beautiful dark lush foliage with quantities of lovely true wine blossoms."

Great Lakes 4-7-52

Mrs. Leroy Human
320 Niagara Street
North Tonawanda, New York

"Great Lakes, a proven seedling. Light blue of the shade between BV-5 and BV-6 on the New England Gladiolus Society's Fischer Color Chart. Or between Sky Blue and Blue Eyes. Great Lakes has larger flowers than either of these plants. It is a frosty, clear blue, more nearly a true sky blue than either of the mentioned plants. The plant is vigorous; medium green foliage of great size. Rather long of leaf, slightly toothed and a quick reproducer. This name has been selected because the flower so closely duplicates the color of the Iris of this name and to honor the section of the Country in which it came into being."

Heidi 6-17-52

Mrs. L. B. Hotchkiss
110 High Point Road
Peoria, Illinois

"A sport of White Beauty with heart shaped, du Pont foliage. The glistening blooms are about two and one quarter inches across, cream colored the first day, pure white the second and, thereafter, have a blue eye and blue border on the two top petals with the slightest hint of a blue border on the lower three. It has retained the fast growing habit and floriferousness of the parent plant. To sum it up: It is a white du Pont with a blue border that propagates easily, grows rapidly and blooms heavily with giant sized blossoms."

Jean MacArthur 5-8-52

Mrs. E. G. Magill
707 South 4th Street
Aurora, Illinois

"Plant -- Originated by Mrs. Ferne Kellar, Blue Girl x Neptune -- Girl Foliage. Leaf -- 3 inches x 2 inches; deeply scalloped, white throat; 2/3 of leaf running out into the veins of dark green which becomes a medium green toward edge of leaf -- grows compact -- Prolific bloomer. Blossoms 1½ to 2" average 7 to peduncle, round like Neptune, color about the shade of Blue Girl."

Joan of Arc 6-12-52

Eva Letourneau
Rt. 2, Box 479
Puyallup, Washington

"The Joan of Arc. It's really different from all our reds. It is near the shade of Cleveland Indian only doesn't fade as much. The leaves are girl foliage, dark forest green when mature. But very bronzy and spotted with dark veining, very pretty. The self pollinating hasn't kept it from blooming although not so heavy."

Kehl's Sweet Pea Red Girl 4-9-52

Albert Kehl
4214 Cleveland Avenue, Ext. North
Canton 9, Ohio

"Well shaped plant with typical foliage of Red Girl. The blossoms of this plant are the distinctive difference for they are shaped like the sweet pea flower. The name itself describes this plant. Color same as the Red Girl and is a most prolific bloomer. Flowers also last much longer than on Red Girl or similar single flowers."

Lilac Girl 4-7-52

Oliver H. Pease
1913 Tonawanda Avenue
Akron 5, Ohio

"One of over two hundred seedling plants from a package of Friendly Garden seed mixture. The flowers are of a decided Sweet Pea type, coloring is lilac purple with occasional lighter stripes. The top petals are inclined to curve until they form nearly a perfect circle."

Martha Washington 5-17-52

Mrs. Helen Montgomery
5744 Oak
Kansas City 2, Missouri

"Slow growing, but the light green foliage has good resistance to strong light. A prolific bloomer, the light lavender blossoms with dark purple eye are held well above the foliage on long stems."

Milky Way 1-19-52

Mrs. Carl Dick
2509 South Columbus Avenue
Sandusky, Ohio

"Seedling from White Lady and Blue Girl."

"Large plant fast growth. Dark glossy green and white top foliage, with silver green bottom. Light green veins. Extra large cream "girl" spot extending to middle of leaf in veins. Deep ruffled and scalloped edge. Like "Sea Queen" the leaf is so deeply cut, looks like six tiny leaves attached to base of main leaf. The whole leaf its self is edged, or variegated in a border of cream white. Very showy. Like the annual euphorbia. The leaves remind one of a long tailed butterfly. The foliage stems are three inches long, giving full view of cream white bordered edge. Blossoms, medium size, Heavenly Blue Morning glory color. On long white stems. Well above foliage."

Pacific Princess 7-6-52

Mrs. Carolyn P. Rector
P. O. Box 94
San Pedro, California

"Lovely, heavily quilted girl leaves, large girl spot at base, brilliant blue violet flowers, heavy bloomer. Winner in Long Beach Show."

Pacific Redwood 6-19-52

Mrs. Carolyn K. Rector
P. O. Box 94
San Pedro, California

"The general description is as follows: dark green leaves, red backs, blue violet flowers in clusters of usually four. Beautifully spooned."

Periwinkle Supreme 6-12-52

Eva Letourneau
Rt. 2 Box 479
Puyallup, Washington

"The Periwinkle Supreme is much the same as all Supremes as far as the leaf is concerned, only it has ribbed heavy foliage and not round like du Ponts, has the point like the Periwinkle when younger. As it gets older blossom really is very stately, stands up so nice and very even in coloring. Medium blue all the way to edge and gets lighter. The eye is white. Round blossom like Neptune."

Pink Fantasy 7-2-52

Behnke Nurseries
Wash. Baltimore Blvd.
Beltsville, Maryland

"Brilliant deep pink sport of Fantasy. Similar growing and blooming habits. Exceptionally vigorous, hardy and profuse."

Prof. Chapman 6-2-52

Mrs. Edwin Anderson
128 N. Magnolia Avenue
Lansing 12, Michigan

"It grows to be a large plant with grass-green leaves that cup up and down, some of the leaves are ruffled and cre-nated. Blossoms nearly the shade of Crinkles. Each petal is long with the two top ones standing straight up with the center of blossom a little darker blue. Blossoms measure one and a half to two inches across, on eight inch stems, with eight to twelve to the cluster. Plant is a constant bloomer from small young plants on. Easy to propagate and a very vigorous plant. This plant is so outstanding every asks, "Is it a violet?"

Red Riding Hood 1-19-52

Mrs. Carl Dick
2509 South Columbus Avenue
Sandusky, Ohio

"Seedling, from Pink Lady, and Blue Girl, Large open heart, upright, fast robust growth. Flowers bi-color. Two top petals dark purple wine, three lower petals are larger and lavender pink, on large pink stems well above foliage. Medium green, heart shaped foliage, cupped upward, very transparent, glossy. Extra thick and meaty leaves, slight white in serrated edge. Large girl cream spot, extending out into veins. A new glossy girl type foliage on the order of Violette Bronze Elf. Bi-color, with a "Love Bird" or Velvet Girl look."

Sarah Ann 3-31-52

Mrs. Ralph Waidelich
2208 Jefferson Street
Quincy, Illinois

"Sarah Ann is an unknown seedling from California, I believe I should have named her Contrary though, as she surely does not have a uniformity of habits. The young leaves are heart shaped, serrated, upright and light green. The older more mature leaves are sometimes ovate or round, deeper green, red stems, and the downward hanging leaves begin to have a cream or white border all around the leaf. It reminds me of a lady whose hair is turning gray. The different shaped leaves, different colors are very striking. Sometimes the upper side of the leaf turns a bronze color, reddish underneath. The blossoms are quite large, medium blue with purple sepals. The stems are long and upright, four and five flowers in the stem. It is a good bloomer and propagates easily."

Sunbonnet Baby 6-11-52

Mrs. A. J. Waller
15940 Blossom Hill Road
Los Gatos, California

"The leaves are somewhat on the order of Redland but more notched and inclined to cup downward in good light. The plant resembles Neptune in habit of growth. The blossoms of this seedling are outstanding in appearance for they are a bright lavender with a purple eye, cupped petals, and are edged with a fine white line. It is a prolific bloomer. Has ten or twelve flowers in each cluster."

Vera's Heirloom 6-9-52

Mrs. Vera Carlson
1311 Harlem Blvd.
Rockford, Illinois

"This plant is very hardy and grows rapidly. It measures 18 to 24 inches across. The leaves are large, shiny, and darkest green. It is nicely quilted and very red underneath. The average blossom is 1 1/2 inches across. The flowers are held well above the foliage in clusters of 7 to 9. The color is medium blue-violet. It is a prolific and continuous bloomer. Its pattern is good and symmetrical. It resembles Commadore but it grows faster and larger, has many more blossoms, and the undersides of the leaves are a deeper red."

Yellow Brown Girl 4-18-52

Mary Meeds
Box 1444, 2023 Belmont Avenue
Youngstown, Ohio

"Yellow Brown Girl has a yellow brownish colored crinkled cup shaped flower. Nice regular girl foliage. This is the only variety of African violet that we know of that has any yellow."

The application cards on **MILKY WAY** and **RED RIDING HOOD** were received in time to be included in the June Report, they were left off in error.

PART II

The following Name Reservations have been made during this period.

Ace	*My Pals
Anne Gilliland	Niagara Maid
Black Satin	Nona McFarlan
Blue Boy Compacta	Orchid Blush
Blue Duet	Packs Lavender Star
Blue Orchids	Pink Dream Girl
Blue Organdy	Pink Fantasy
Blue Queen Compacta	*Pixie Girls
Blue Ribbon Girl	Precious Girl
Bronze Cherub	Purple Gorgeous
Bunny Ears	Purple King
Charm Girl	Redheart
Choctaw Chief	Red Princess
Cindy Lou	Red Riding Boy
Crested Blue Compacta	Rising Sun
Dainty Betty	*Rochelle
Danny Boy	Rochelle Barbara
Dimity	Rochelle Bea
Double Darling	Rochelle Boots
Dresden China	Rochelle Bubbles
Dreslin China	Rochelle Cecile
Edith Zwahlen	Rochelle Colette
Fairy Fiesta	Rochelle Dee Dee
*Fantasy	Rochelle Francine
Fantasy Supreme	Rochelle Gladys
Festival	Rochelle Henrietta
Flash	Rochelle Katherine
Gorgeous Gal	Rochelle Lea
Gill	Rochelle Linda Lou
Glory Girl	Rochelle Melanie
Glowing Ember	Rochelle Mimi
Grayce's Girls	Rochelle Nita
Hanging Basket, Purple	Rochelle Pamela
Hawaiian Skies	Rochelle Simone
Heather	Rochelle Suzanne
Helena Rosewell	Rochelle Suzette
Honey Girl	Rochelle Thelma
Illinois Giant	Rochelle Tyna
Indian Maiden	Rochelle Yvonne
*Kansas	Rose of Nebraska
Kansas City Girl	Rose Orchid
Laddy	Ruffled Blue
Lilac Beauty	Ruffled Prince
Little Red Riding Hood	Ruffled Triumph
Lyke's Blue Cup	Silver Bells
Lyke's Jumbo Pink	Silver Moon
Magnificent	Sonnet
Maid of the Mist	Sparkle
Mardi Gras	Spitfire
Marjenie	Thistle
Martha Ellen	Truly Fair
Mary Lou	Victor Lee
Miss Junction City Kansas	*Violet Farm
*Missouri	Violet Farm Blue
Mister Boy	Violet Farm Pink
Mrs. Nellie Firth	White Tinsel
*Designates Series Reservation	

PART III

NAMES OF PERSONS

Numerous plant names are being registered or reserved which would appear to be the names of persons, alive or dead. Attention is directed to the fact that such use should not be made unless adequate permission has been secured. The entire responsibility for this rests upon the applicant, it is always assumed that such permission has been obtained before any application is made to the

Cont. on Page 69



Memphis Show -- Daisy Jones with her Double Rainbow Delight.



Akron Show -- Mrs. W. G. White and her prize winning plant.

Akron Beacon Journal photo

SHOW NEWS and VIEWS

CLEVELAND OHIO

The Cleveland Saintpaulia Society held its second African Violet Show on Saturday and Sunday May 10th and 11th at the Garden Center of Greater Cleveland on East Boulevard, which is one of the most beautiful and picturesque garden spots in Cleveland. The attendance for the two days numbered over 5,500 visitors.

There were 151 entries in the membership classes and 30 in the non-membership class. There was also a class for flower arrangements. A Gold Cup was awarded to Mrs. H. K. Anderson of Bay Village, Ohio for her entry Violet Beauty which was judged "Queen of the Show." Mrs. Anderson also won the Sweepstakes Award.

Judges were Mrs. Dale Farrell of Battle Creek, Michigan and Mrs. John Slivka of Fayette, Ohio. Mrs. A. F. Burkett, Assistant Director of the Garden Center, served as judge of the flower arrangements, assisted by Mrs. Joseph Hodan, president of the Cleveland Society.

Mrs. John W. Held served as chairman of the show and Mrs. Cameron Conant was in charge of staging.

ST. JOSEPH MISSOURI

The Missouri Valley African Violet Society of St. Joseph, Missouri had another very successful show on April 5th and 6th, 1952.

The Red Feather Room of the Y. W. C. A. provides a beautiful background for a violet show with its rose colored walls and colorful drapes. The plants in the competitive classes were arranged on long tables that were covered with white cloths. The displays and arrangements were in the center. A driftwood lamp made by the show chairman, Milton Bumbacher is shown in the accompanying picture -- page 44.

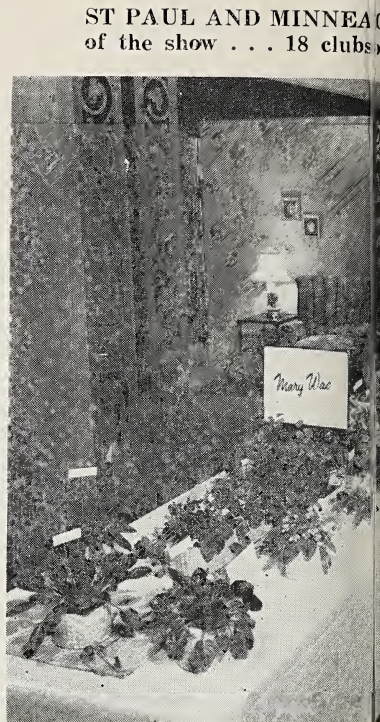
The Best in the Show and one of the Sweepstakes winners were attractively displayed by a large waterfall at one end of the room, complete with running water, gold fish in the pond below and vines trailing over the rock.

Both the Sweepstakes and Best in the Show were taken by Mrs. Leo Beck.

The judges were Mrs. J. Herman and Mrs. W. P. Dahnke of Kansas City, and Mrs. R. O. Powelson judged the arrangements.



INDIANAPOLIS SHOW -- The staging committee at work. (Above)



GREATER MONTREAL SHOW -- Left to right, Mrs. G. Egerton Brown, Mrs. Lew Davies, Mr. Anderson, Mrs. M. Merle Hardy, Mrs. A. Williams. (Below)



AFRICAN VIOLET SHOW -- PENNSYLVANIA -- Winners Mesdames Leonard Beck, and Donald Taber.

IS SHOW -- A view of part
icipated. (Below)

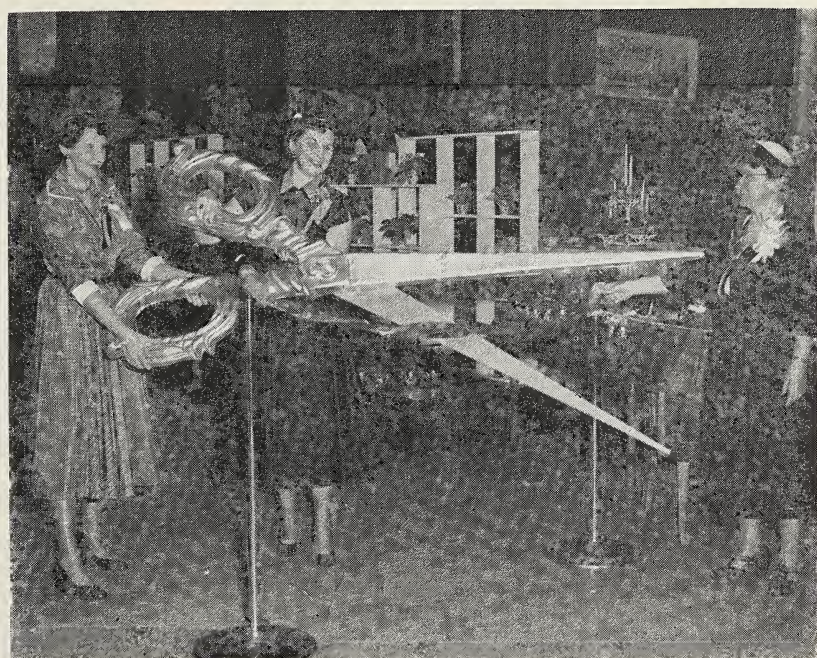


BERGEN COUNTY SOCIETY -- This attractive display won two special awards last fall; one as the "Best in the Show" and the other as an "Educational Award." (Above)



TY OF SPRINGFIELD,
on show plans, left to right,
William Zachow, R. G. Frye

QUEEN CITY SHOW -- Left to right, Mrs. Robert Gregg, Mrs. James Asmann, Mrs. Harry Moeller, Sr. (Below)





INDIANAPOLIS SHOW -- The staging committee at work. (Above)



ST PAUL AND MINNEAPOLIS SHOW -- A view of part of the show . . . 18 clubs participated. (Below)



BERGEN COUNTY SOCIETY -- This attractive display won two special awards last fall; one as the "Best in the Show" and the other as an "Educational Award." (Above)

GREATER MONTREAL SHOW -- Left to right, Mrs. G. Egerton Brown, Mrs. Lew Davies, Mr. Anderson, Mrs. M. Merle Hardy, Mrs. A. Williams. (Below)



AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF SPRINGFIELD, PENNSYLVANIA -- Working on show plans, left to right, Mesdames Leonard Becker, William Zachow, R. G. Frye and Donald Taber.

QUEEN CITY SHOW -- Left to right, Mrs. Robert Gregg, Mrs. James Asmann, Mrs. Harry Moeller, Sr. (Below)



MEMPHIS SHOW

Easter Parade of African Violets was the theme for the Memphis and Shelby County African violet spring show, April 5th and 6th. Tables in the shape of a large cross and covered with white paper, were placed in the center of the large show room. Each class was separated by ruffled royal purple scalloped crepe paper . . . the focal point of the show being the center of the cross which held a huge nest of large brightly colored Easter eggs tucked into shredded lavender cellophane. Purple ribbon streamers ran in four directions from the nest of eggs.

Splendid work in judging the show was done by Mesdames Miller, Ravan and Gillespie of Chattanooga, Tenn., Mrs. Hester of Florence, Ala., all nationally accredited judges of African violets, and Mrs. Walter Mack Berry of Memphis, a nationally accredited judge of horticulture. Many hundreds of people attended the two day show and the many compliments of a beautiful and successful show were the rewards justly received by the chairman Mrs. Aubrey Sargent, Jr. and her efficient staff of co-workers.

The week preceeding the show radio reviews were broadcast and arrangements for television and newspaper publicity were generously given to our publicity chairman Mrs. C. W. Cunningham. About six scenes of the Show with the winners and officers of the club were televised, then re-broadcast.

The large silver trophy Chas. E. Heckle Award for Best in Show went to Miss Daisy Jones for a beautiful Double Rainbow Delight. The gold trophy known as the Col. J. D. Chambers Sweepstake Award went to Mrs. H. A. McGuire for 17 blue ribbon winners and the beautiful silver compote known as the W. H. Snyder Nivice Award went to Mrs. Elby D. Martin. A small admission fee was made -- the club made a tidy sum and members now are busy checking over their plants grooming them for next year's Spring Show of "Blue Ribbon Winners."

INDIANAPOLIS INDIANA

Ayres Auditorium, Indianapolis, Indiana, was the scene of a very successful show on May 15th and 16th. There were three hundred and sixty entries and twenty seven hundred people attended the show. General chairman of the show was Mrs. C. D. Monger.

AKRON SHOW

The Greater Akron African Violet Society held their Annual Show on May 19th and 20th in O'Neils Auditorium.

Mrs. W. G. White was awarded a "Queen of the Show" gold ribbon for her Lady Grace plant.

ST. PAUL and MINNEAPOLIS MINN.

The annual Show of the African Violet Clubs of the Twin Cities and Vicinity was held April 3, 1952 at the L. S. Donaldson Company in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

There were 18 clubs exhibiting and four commercial exhibitors, a table for information regarding propagation, as well as a table for registration of out-of-town guests and inquiries regarding new memberships. One thousand plants, representing three-hundred-fifty different varieties were on display.

The table arrangements, sponsored by the clubs, differed in the manner of presentation of plants and individual potting. Such containers as soup tureens, glazed pottery, old milk glass, lacy china, delicate Dresden and paper doilies were utilized to show off the beauty of the plants.

The propagation table proved of prime interest. This area featured practical methods of propagating leaves, seeds and the crossing of plants. For the advanced propagator there was an interesting chart describing the wonders accomplished by the miracle chemical Colchicine.

By actual count twenty thousand people viewed the exhibits during the day. These visitors were made up of violet enthusiasts from twenty-one states as well as from Alaska and Canada. One visitor from Tuscon, Arizona penciled in the notation that she came especially to see the show.

An extremely unique organization is largely responsible for the great success of the show produced by the Twin City African Violet Clubs. These eighteen Clubs have banded themselves together voluntarily and have a board of governors consisting of one member selected from each club as an executive group. The coordination of effort and cooperation between individual clubs was possible only because of such an organization. It is believed that this group is the only one of its kind among the active African violet clubs of the country.

MONTREAL SHOW

Our Third Annual Show, which was formally opened by Mrs. J. S. Cameron, wife of his Worship the Mayor of Westmount, was held on May 9, 10 and 11 in one of the large greenhouses belonging to the City of Westmount. The Conservatory Staff under the direction of the Superintendent, Mr. E. J. Anderson, spared no efforts in arranging the display of over 400 violets including nearly 100 varieties as attractively as possible.

In addition to the 16 competitive classes, there were special displays by Mr. J. Scott, Mrs. I. Davies, Show Convenor; Mrs. M. Hardy, President, and Mrs. Buck.

Mrs. Hill was awarded the Pascoe Trophy for the best plant in the Show -- a very large and beautifully grown Dickson's Purple. Mrs. Hill also won the new Steinberg Trophy for the high-

est aggregate. The smallest plant in bloom, in a container scarcely larger than a thimble, created considerable amusement. It is rumored that the Judges removed it from the pot to satisfy themselves that it was a properly rooted plant.

In spite of exceedingly bad weather on Sunday, usually the best day for crowds, over 3,000 people attended the Show.

FOURTH ANNUAL SPRINGFIELD SHOW

The Springfield African Violet Society of Delaware County Pennsylvania held its fourth annual exhibit on May 3, 1952. at the Central School in Springfield. Three hundred fifty people stopped by our registration table before going in to admire the ninety nine "plus" varieties. That is, ninety nine named varieties plus the varied and unusual seedlings grown by our members. Attracting a great deal of attention were the Geneva Stars, the Brussels Sprouts, the large S. grotei, and the assortment of girl varieties. The show was non-competitive, but had there been a "Queen of the Show Award," it would have gone to a beautiful Blue Moon. It was a solid mass of bloom.

For the first time a fluorescent display was included in the show. A two tube lamp was placed at the end of the propagation display table and two trays of plants grown under the lights were shown there. The growth of plants under artificial light is becoming more popular.

One of the members had done a violet show in miniature; complete with violets, club members, orchestra and music!

Chairman for the show this year was Mrs. C.B. Rios.

QUEEN CITY CLUB

The Queen City African Violet Club of Cincinnati, Ohio, held their fourth birthday party on April 4 in the Continental Dining Room of the Netherland Plaza Hotel.

The club has a membership of 100 members, eighty of whom were present for this meeting and fifteen of these were charter members.

All members were seated at a large table, beautifully decorated with plants of Sea Girl Saintpaulia from the collection of Mrs. Ella Carter.

New officers installed at this meeting were:

President,	Mrs. John Landaker
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. K. Cooper
Rec. Secy.,	Mrs. R. Steinmetz
Treasurer,	Miss J. Culverhouse
Corres. Secy.,	Mrs. H. Willis

Mrs. Carter was mistress of ceremony, presenting Mrs. Moeller, retiring president with a National African violet pin. Mrs. Landaker was presented with a gavel.

The club boasts of two outstanding members, Mrs. Arthur Radtke who organized the club and past president of the African Violet Society of America, and Mr. Henry Peterson, Cincinnati

commercial grower of Saintpaulias. Mr. Peterson is also chairman of the National Research Committee.

One of the projects of the club for the coming year is to give 100 dollars to the National Research Committee, as a token of our appreciation to Mr. Peterson for all the assistance he has given to the club.



Viewing the Milwaukee Show.

MILWAUKEE SHOW

The Milwaukee County African Violet Society, known as one of the fastest growing horticultural groups in this area, held their first African violet Show at the Athenaeum, 813 E. Kilbourne Ave., Milwaukee, on April 18, 1952. With many comments informing the group that Milwaukee does not respond to flower shows with paid admissions and also building our own "ground floor" from the start, this Society amazed even themselves!

Mrs. Willard Harland, Pewaukee general show chairman and her staff were stunned at the response from the public as approximately 2,400 people with pads and pencils for notes on varieties filed through within 7 hours. Even the membership showed their enthusiasm by filling the hall to capacity with arrangements, settings and plants for judging and decoration. It was most breathtaking. People came from a radius of 500 miles just for the show. Although the door opened at 2 p. m. the crowd began to gather at noon. The

police department sent officers to take care of the crowds who were not only jammed in the halls and stairs on first and second floors but half way down the block. Many had to be turned away. About 700 plants, 500 of which were in the specimen and setting classes, were entered.

A special award for the largest plant growing in an old-fashioned water bowl, went to Mrs. Frank Pohlhammer. A twelve year old plant shown by Mrs. Willard Harland, got an award for its age. Other special awards were for a Bi-Color shown by Mrs. Harvey Bollhagen, and a Pink Beauty shown by Mrs. L. J. Booth.

VIRGINIA BEACH VIRGINIA

The Princess Anne African Violet Society of Virginia Beach, Virginia sponsored a Violet Show on April 5th and 6th in the Paramount Restaurant Mezzanine. Mrs. Lawrence Lockwood, new president of the society, received the largest number of top awards. Mrs. Harry Ames won the prize for best artistic arrangement, which featured African violets in various colors arranged on a palette. The award for the best and largest plant went to Mrs. A. F. Bradt. Prizes for the top awards were "Tri-color" hammered brass plant containers designed by a member of the Richmond African Violet Society.

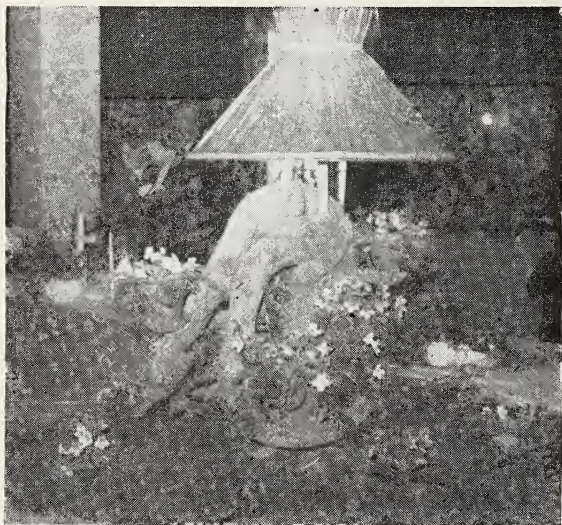
The judges were Mrs. Gibson Phillips of Richmond, Mrs. George Ross of Midlothian and Mrs. Paul Fletcher of Norfolk.

Mrs. Ames was chairman, and Mrs. J. B. Tillett, co-chairman.

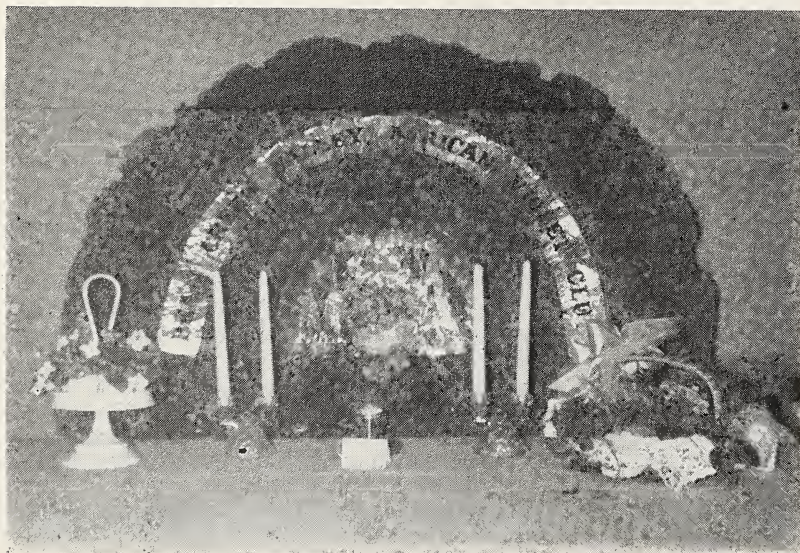
Mrs. Lawrence Lockwood was elected president of the club at the March meeting held at the home of Mrs. Nick Asteris. Other officers elected were:

Vice-Presidents,	Mrs. D. Y. Malbon
Secretary,	Mrs. T. L. Johnson
Corres. Secy.,	Mrs. A. J. Ketsules
Treasurer,	Miss Mildred McClanan
	Mrs. R. P. Minton

Left, an unusual arrangement -- A driftwood lamp made by Milton Bumbacher, chairman of the St. Joseph, Missouri Show. Report of show on page 39.



BEAN CREEK VALLEY SHOW



Arranged by Mrs. Helen McGill,
Mrs. Mina Gander, Mrs. Robert
Cunningham and Mrs. Eugene
Ruder.



Mrs. Robert Cunningham and her Gold Ribbon collection of plants.



The judges at work, Left to right, Mrs. M. C. Armstrong, Mrs. Beryl Mann, clerk and Mrs. Dale Ferrall.

The Bean Creek Valley African Violet Club held its second annual show in the Hudson Methodist Church on May 15th. The show was opened to the public at 1:30 and over 220 visitors signed the register.

Mrs. Robert Cunningham of Locust Corners was awarded the Gold Ribbon Award of the African Violet Society of America, Inc., and Mrs. Eugene Ruder received the Purple Ribbon. These ribbons are awarded at the show of any affiliated African Violet Club for the best collections of three named varieties of African violets entered in competition. In addition to the National honor, Mrs. Cunningham was awarded a gold medal for the best plant in the show and sweepstakes for the most first prize entries. In addition to her Purple Ribbon, Mrs. Ruder received many ribbons on her entries as well as a special prize for the largest plant in the show.

Mrs. Mina Gander of Manitou Beach was a close third for show honors. Other winners of several prizes were Mrs. Leslie Britten of Hudson and Mrs. John Slivka of Fayette, Ohio.

In addition to the many individual plants exhibited, there were many interesting and attractive arrangements for special days and others for table and mantel. Mrs. Ruder's "violet lady who lived in a shoe" showed the progress of a violet from the pepper fine seed to a large blooming plant.

An information table in charge of Mrs. Winifred Clement displayed books, magazines and scrap books about African violets. Mrs. Clements passed out leaves and information to those who were interested.

About 60 ladies from Detroit, Toledo, Battle Creek and other nearby towns attended the

luncheon which preceded the show. Following the luncheon, Mrs. John Slivka of Fayette, Ohio gave highlights of the African Violet Society's Convention in Chicago held in April.

Mrs. Dale Ferrall of Battle Creek, Michigan, who with Mrs. M. C. Armstrong, also of Battle Creek, judged the show, gave an interesting talk, explaining how the judging was done. Mrs. D. L. Bowers of Jackson and Mrs. Beryl Mann of Mosherville, who acted as clerks were introduced. All were presented with African violet corsages.

Information table in charge of Mrs. Winifred Clement left, who discusses violet problems with a Jonesville, Michigan friend and Mrs. Charles Crawford, right of Toledo, Ohio.



ST. PAUL MINNESOTA

The Snow Girls and the Gypsies Club of St. Paul, Minnesota held their first African Violet Show in the Riverview Branch Library on May 27. At the end of the day there had been 400 visitors.

Mrs. Joe Patton, Gypsies president, was in charge of the propagation table and answered the many questions of the visitors.

Mrs. Henry Peters, Snow Girls president, exhibited new and unusual varieties, and many were exhibited by the members of both clubs.

Right, members of the Snow Girls Club of St. Paul.



HIGH POINT NORTH CAROLINA SHOW

The High Point African Violet Society held its Third Annual Spring African Violet Show on May 3rd and 4th, 1952, at the High Point, Thomasville and Denton Railroad office building High Point, North Carolina.

The theme of the Show was "Celebrating the Discovery of Saintpaulia around 1890," carrying

out the idea with the use of furniture and dress of the 1800's. An old Southern colored man greeted the guests at the steps and invited them into the show.

On entering the reception hall, furnished in 18th Century Antiques, the guests were met by Mrs. Melvina Davis, show chairman and Mrs. B.



Above

Planning for the show -- Mrs. Hackney, Mrs. Davis, Mrs. R. R. Blackburn and Mrs. P. L. White.

Below

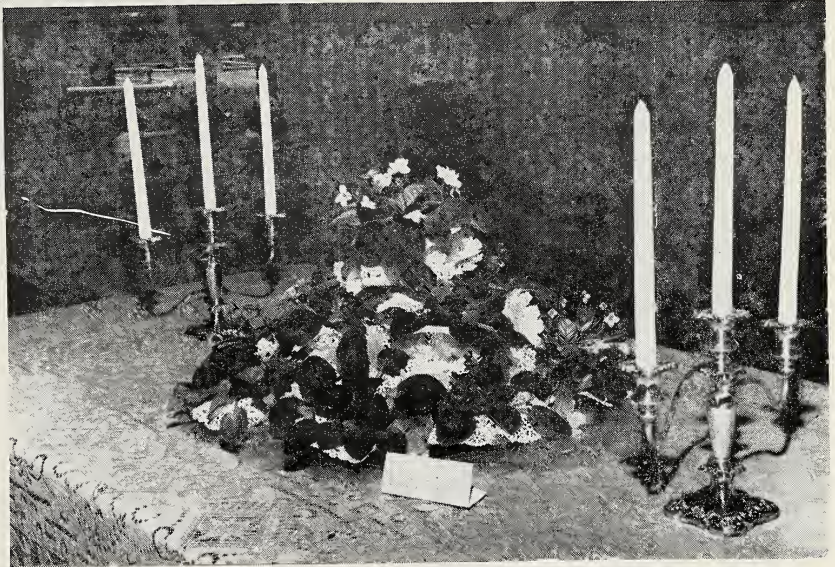
Left to right, Mrs. B. W. Hackney, president, Mrs. Melvina M. Davis, chairman ready to greet the show guests.





Left, the Blue Room Exhibit.

Right, Lazy Susan arrangement for a party table.



W. Hackney, Jr., president. On one side of the reception hall was a jungle scene featuring a stream of water with a sailing vessel. This was to symbolize the journey of the African violet from Africa to Germany. Papier-mache animals monkeys, tigers, giraffes, elephants and other animals were used in the jungle scene.

The guests were directed into the banquet room where the main feature was a large "Lazy Susan" arranged with different varieties of African violets with silver candelabras at each end of the table. On to the White room, then to the Orchid room, to the Blue and to the Pink room, where each color was classified according to its variety. In each the plants were displayed on long tables covered with a white cloth. Around fifty arrangements were attractively displayed in the arrangement room. Some of the outstanding were; "The Four Ages, An Easter Arrangement, An Antique Powder Box displaying a Pink Lace Violet with a miniature picture beside it and a Maypole featuring the Girl Violets."

Two hostesses in costume greeted the guests in each room and answered the many questions that were asked. Throughout the entire show appropriate music of the 1800's was played, which added a delightful air to the show. We displayed around 1,000 plants and 100 different varieties; from the oldest to the very newest varieties recently released. A silver offering was taken and the proceeds were given to The American Cancer

Society, to add some cheer and give courage to some unfortunate victim of cancer.

For the first time we tried for the National Honors. The Gold Ribbon was won by Mrs. S. J. O'Neal and the Purple Ribbon was won by Mrs. R. L. Murray. Mrs. R. L. Murray also won the sweepstakes award for having the most points. Mrs. C. A. Daniels won the prize for the most outstanding arrangement.

TECUMSEH NEBRASKA

The Tecumseh, Nebraska African Violet Society presented their Third Annual Violet Show on April 19th and 20th.

Some two hundred varieties were on display and individual seedling collections by Mrs. C. G. Kent, Mrs. William Schafer, Mrs. Fay Gillett and Mrs. Sappenfield were shown.

Mrs. Ray Broady had the plant, Holly, on display and Mrs. John Nelson had two plants from Sophie Baker of Portland, Oregon, on display. They were Royal Ripples and Portland Rose.

Mrs. Constance Hansen of Lafayette, California was present to display her two new plants. They are Tinker Bell and Wendy. These were gifts to Mrs. Sappenfield.

Of special interest were plants displayed by the oldest violet enthusiast, Mrs. Betsy Baker, 109 years "young" and one of its youngest violet lovers seven year old Lee Broady, who had a group of his seedlings on display.

NEW AFFILIATED CHAPTERS

AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF SPRINGFIELD

Mrs. Sue C. Zachow, Treas.
406 W. Leamy Ave.
Springfield, (Del. Co.) Pa.

AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF SYRACUSE

Miss Marie Michael, Corres. Secty.
307 Catherine St.
Syracuse, N. Y.

AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF ROCHESTER, N. Y.

Mrs. Robert I. Slocumb, Pres.
30 Inglewood Dr.
Rochester, N. Y.

AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF EMPORIA

Mrs. Cecil Rogers, Treas.
327 Lawrence
Emporia, Kansas

AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF DENVER

Mrs. Theo. M. Greer, Pres.
1822 Arapaho St.
Golden, Colorado

AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF OKLAHOMA CITY

Mrs. C. V. Hughes, Pres.
5600 N. W. 16th St., Rte. 3
Oklahoma City, Okla.

CLEVELAND SAINTPAULIA SOCIETY

Mrs. John W. Held, Treas.
1880 Rivercliff Dr.
Fairview Park, Ohio

DETROIT AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB

Mrs. A. G. Foster, Treas.
4474 Gladwin Ave.
Detroit 13, Mich.

DUBONNET SAINTPAULIA SOCIETY

Mrs. Edward T. Hardulak, Treas.
2946 W. 14th St.
Cleveland 13, Ohio

GREATER ST. LOUIS AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY No. 1

Mrs. Elsie G. Sullivan, Pres.
8017 Troost Ave.
Afton 23, Mo.

HUNTINGTON AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY

Mrs. L. E. Bledsoe, Treas.
1300 Huntington, Ave.
Huntington, W. Va.

INGLEWOOD CHAPTER AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF AMERICA

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"Fundamentals of African Violet Culture," John S. Coryell

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"Saintpaulia in American Horticulture," Dr. W. H. Camp

"Shall We Hybridize -- How, What and Why?" Dr. Milton Carlton

"What is Going on Under Glass," Symposium

"Speaking of Operations," Montague Free

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BOOKS

African Violets by Helen Van Pelt Wilson; All About African Violets by Montague Free; Greenhouse Gardening for Everyone by Ernest Chabot; The African Violet by Helen Van Pelt Wilson; Plant Magic by James P. Haworth; A Handbook for African Violet Growers by Mary Margaret Odon; How to Grow African Violets by Carolyn Rector; African Violet Handbook for Judges and Exhibitors by Ruth G. Carey; Care and Culture of the African Violet by Lloyd P. Lindsey; Yearbook Collection . . . a helpful collection of society yearbooks from all sections of the country . . . most useful in planning programs.

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1. Two months notice is necessary for reservation.
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Also available for Chapter programs are a number of African violet stories that have appeared in various popular magazines.



QUESTION BOX



LAURETTA L. LITTIG 3016 Jefferson Ave. Davenport, Iowa

It was very kind of Mrs. Fuller to share with us her experience with nematodes. I saw her plants and she had a lot of especially lovely ones. It was heartbreaking to have her destroy them. However, as they were practically all infested and as she didn't want to experiment with a poisonous insecticide, she thought that the only thing to do.

Mrs. Fuller's experience should be a lesson to all of us to sterilize our soil, as she intends doing in the future.

I have received the following interesting letter from Howard L. Miller, Ohio:

"I noted with particular interest your answer in the June Magazine regarding a cross of Saint-paulia and Achimenes. I have never made this cross but have successfully made a cross of Isoloma Hirsuta and Saintpaulia Rosalie. I. Hirsuta, as you probably know, has trumpet shaped bright scarlet blossoms and S. Rosalie is a very lovely red. So far the plants are rather small and have not flowered, but they resemble neither the Isoloma nor the Saintpaulia.

If you are interested I shall be glad to let you know how these plants turn out."

We appreciate Mr. Miller writing and shall look forward to hearing the result of his cross.

QUESTIONS

I have about a dozen plants on a table in an east window -- some large and some small. I treat them all exactly alike, and feed and water them all at the same time. Still some plants look fine while others look wilted and don't bloom so well. What could be the matter?

Mrs. J. Thompson, Ill.

I've had trouble with crown rot on some of my plants. Recently I read an article saying African violets should be watered only once a week. I decided to try this method as I thought possibly I'd been watering too often. Now my plants look wilted. What do you think of this method?

Mrs. H. A. Hanson, Iowa

In the last six months I have bought 8 or 9 African violets in full bloom. Within a day after getting them in my home, they lose all their flowers, and the new small buds seem to wither

up. Could you tell me the cause? My young plants seem to be all right.

Carrimae M. Marks, N. Y.

About a year ago a friend was given a leaf of Lady Geneva, which she rooted. Today she brought me two blossoms which I am enclosing taken off this plant -- one is a Fantasy and one looks like Blue Boy. This is very unusual to us -- what is the reason for this?

Mrs. Ivan W. Edgcomb, Pa.

I have a Fantasy plant which has always had regular Fantasy blossoms. Now it is starting to bloom again and some of the flowers are plain blue. Have you heard of this before?

Mrs. C. O. Bowers, Iowa

I have raised African violets for several years and have always had very good luck with them although I never sterilized my soil. I never thought it necessary as my plants were healthy and I never had any trouble of any kind. About 6 months ago I bought some leaf mold which I put in practically all my pots, also used it for starting leaves. The plants looked fine for a while then on examining them one day I noticed that many of them were covered with seed pods although I had done no pollinating. This kept on until practically all my plants had seed pods. I also noticed the blossoms were getting very tiny and darker in color. The outer leaves were getting limp and as I barely touched them they dropped off. There was an enlargement at the base of the stem and when it came off there was an oozing of a clear sort of sticky liquid on the main stalk. I took up one of the plants and the roots looked all right.

One of my plants was examined by a horticulturist here who said definitely I had leaf nematodes. I didn't want to use any of the poisonous insecticides so I destroyed all my plants and rooted leaves, and intend to start all over again. From now on I shall sterilize my soil. I thought my experience might be helpful to others.

Mrs. G. Fuller, Iowa

My violet leaves have a small parasite about the size of a pin head. You can see them when you hold the leaves up to the light. Some leaves are covered with them. When I pick them off with a tweezer they leave a hole in the leaf. Could you tell me what they are and a cure?

Mrs. Helmer Anderson, Minn.
Cont. on Page 70



(By action of the Board of Directors, new members joining the Homing Pigeon after July 31, 1949, must be members of the National Society.)

Dear Members:

Greetings to all you nice Pigeons. Time again for my September column to be on the way. I hope your violets are just busting out all over -- but after the summer heat, this is not always the case. I hope some of the hints I have gleaned from your letters or elsewhere will be of value to you. Some of these hints may not be new to you, but are included for the benefit of our new members.

It has been a pleasure to meet so many of you this summer. I am always happy to see you and talk violets with you.

If any of the members of your Pigeon group objects to your hint hunter reading their letters for hints -- please let me know. In that case, the director should go through the letters for hints and send them on to me.

I'd like to extend a hearty welcome to Iva Woods, my good friend who will now be my co-worker. I know that Iva will do a fine job.

Your Hint Hunter

Helen Pochurek

Each member of our club was given a leaf of Mentor Boy to grow. Next year, we will have a show among ourselves with these plants. It will be interesting to see what each of us has done



HELEN POCHUREK

Arthur Road

Solon, Ohio

Homing Pigeon

News Editor

Note Mrs. Pochurek's new address. -- Editor

and how the plants react to different soils and home conditions.

Helen Gieske, Arlington Hghts., Illinois
Unit 114.

Muffin tins are fine to set small pots in. They facilitate carrying and moving plants, also watering them.

Catherine Marks, Buffalo, N. Y.

Two or three applications of Life Buoy suds applied with a toothbrush at weekly intervals will rid a plant of mealy bugs.

Mona Ayers, Kansas City, Mo.

When starting leaves in small pots, try using just about an inch of starting mixture in the bottom of the pot. The young plants will be forced to reach for the light, making a longer main stem. This will enable you to plant the plants deeper in the pots when transplanting to the permanent pots and it will do away with "wobbly plants."

Helen MacMahon, Macedonia, Ohio.

Upon receiving a choice leaf through the mail that may be cracked -- press a small piece of adhesive tape across back on injury -- carefully holding edges of crack in correct position. If gently handled, the leaf stands a good chance of healing and rooting. (Your Hint Editor suggests first dusting edges with Fermate).

Ruth Anderson, Underwood, Iowa.

I have had too few usable hints from the Pigeon letters, so am including some hints of my own.

One of our largest growers washes all leaves thoroughly under running water before planting them.

I tried this quite by accident and liked the results so well that I am passing it along to you seed growers. I ran out of suitable things to plant

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seeds in, so in desperation I used an 8 by 10 inch Pyrex cake pan. Having no glass on hand to cover it with, I slid the dish into a large plastic bag. I stretched it tight and gathered the ends together and put a rubber band around it. It seemed to me that this batch of seeds germinated faster than any others and are now ½ inch high. I have not watered them yet -- they do not need it. I like the results better than using a tight cover. They seem to get just enough air for fine germination and growing.

Do all our new members know how useful chicken feeders can be? They can be had in several sizes to fit your window sills and come in an attractive shade of green. They are deep enough to hold sand or gravel for that much needed humidity.

Have you ever picked off a seed pod by mistake? I have used many ways of marking seed pods to avoid that, but the best way for me is the little price tags that are attached to a string. They can be slipped over the stem and the crosses can be written on them, also the date.

Seed pods will often ripen even if picked off before thoroughly ripe. I just lay them in the sun for several weeks and find that I have often saved a seed pod that I had picked off by accident while still not mature.

Have you ever wanted to pollinate a certain plant and the pollen parent had finished blooming before the seed parent was in bloom? Just save the blossoms you wish to pollinate with and use them when the plant does come into bloom. Pollen can be saved for many weeks and still be viable after the blossom withers up and is dry. They can also be sent through the mail when they dry off a bit. I have used pollen from blossoms that I have saved all of six weeks. The blossom will get very dry, but the pollen will be good, if the anthers have not been broken.

I am feeling "mighty low" at present -- but this warning might help someone else. Yesterday our refrigerator developed a leak in one of the pipes that hold the liquid gas. We were out when it started and came home to find the kitchen full of fumes. This type of gas just about chokes one and is vile stuff. I closed the dining room door and until the repair man came used a fan to chase the fumes out. It was almost impossible to stay in the room as this gas is so potent. Anyway -- I never gave a thought to the violets in my kitchen windows. Today -- my violets are winging their way to violet heaven. The plants in the dining room are not so seriously affected but every plant has spots on it that look as if the plant had been cooked by a hot sun. These were all my prize plants and many were seedlings that were very worthwhile. I am going to use some of the leaves that are not too far gone -- possibly a mutation of some sort may occur. Never a dull moment in the Pochurek household. With this sad note -- a moral: "Never keep your violets in close proximity to a temperamental refrigerator."

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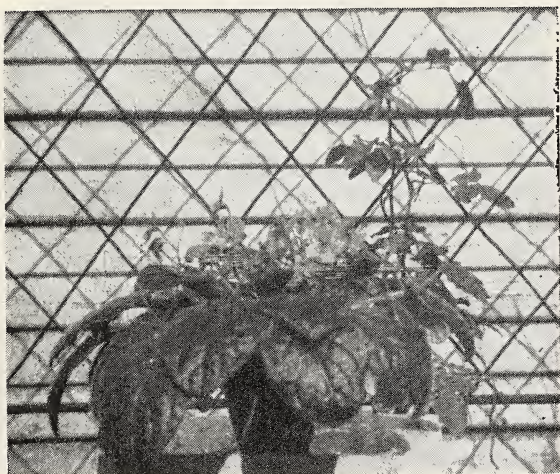
Lake Forest, Ill.

MY "BEST RESULTS" FERTILIZER

Helen Burchell, Mich.

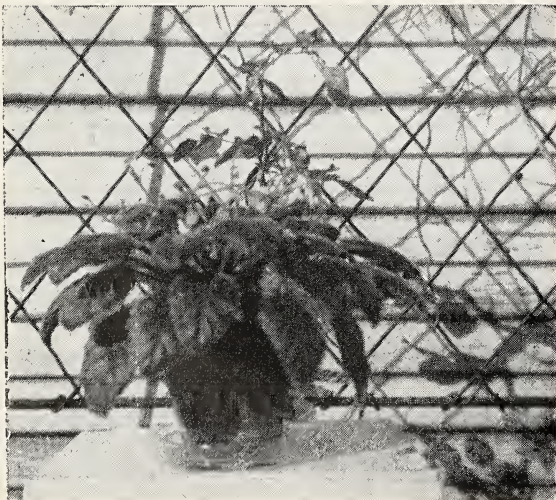
One day my Mother was telling me how my Grandma grew such large pansies with chicken fertilizer -- she obtained from the chicken house. So I sent for some poultry manure and I have successfully used it for two summers now. I like it very much.

The leaves on my plants are very dark and some have dark red petioles. The color of the blossoms seems deeper too. I grow all my African violets in a north window which gives a nice shape plant with especially flat attractive foliage.



Above, Hardee Blue.

Below, Ruffles.



Too much light and not enough fertilizer produces light leaves and small blossoms. This may be pronounced with Lacy Girl and the pink and white varieties.

My "best results" fertilizer is made in the following way: Take a quart enamel coffee pot, fill with water and heat until the water is warm. Then add $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoonful superphosphate and just enough liquid poultry tea to make the water a light amber color. Water your plants with this in the usual manner -- once a month. You will be delighted with the results.

To make poultry tea I use a pitcher that holds about one glass of water. Add four teaspoons of poultry manure and fill the pitcher with boiling water. When the top of the liquid is clear and the solid matter has settled to the bottom pour the liquid thru a strainer. I use a large glass with a tea strainer lined with a small piece of toilet tissue for this. The tissue may be discarded and the strainer is not badly soiled -- saves time and effort.

Do use this mixture before it molds and gets too strong -- a little made oftener is better.

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FUNDAMENTALS OF AFRICAN

VIOLET CULTURE

Cont. from Page 19

or a reduction in the amount of sunlight. By cutting down the amount of sunlight received the plant can utilize sunlight more efficiently all day long. The car battery can convert only a limited amount of electrical energy into chemical energy during any given period of time. The plant can utilize only a certain amount of sunlight during any one moment. Any excess can be injurious or wasted.

Instead of volts, the sunlight is measured in foot-candles. A foot-candle is the light given off by a standard candle, measured at a distance of one foot. The peak of sunlight is reached at noon of a summer day. Sunlight strength is weakest in late December, gradually increasing until late June, and then decreasing until late December. Cloudy weather in the winter further decreases the sunlight strength. The summer noonday peak often reaches 10 to 13 thousand foot-candles. The African violet grows fastest and blooms best at about 1,000 foot-candles. It will bloom even better at 1,400 but the foliage will yellow and burn. A balance must be made between best foliage and best bloom.

Two daylight fluorescent tubes, of 40 watt strength, suspended about 12 inches above the leaves will furnish sufficient energy for good plants. During most of the year your north window will provide adequate light for African violets. Be careful a large tree or porch does not cut off too much of this light.

I like an east window, with light reduced by a piece of waxed paper placed between the plants and the sun. In Kansas this paper is put up in April and not removed before October. Our neighbor's house cuts off much of the early morning sun and we cannot grow as nice a plant as a club member who lives on a corner and her windows receive a longer period of sunlight, due to the open street area.

The west window is the poorest window, but may be shaded enough to be satisfactory. The southern window is excellent, providing you increase the curtains or shade during the spring and summer; then remove some of this shade during the fall and winter. The southern window gives the longest period of sunlight and hence is the most valuable.

Plants utilize the entire visible range of light and I would recommend that white lights be utilized, or sunlight. A combination of fluorescent lights and sunlight is excellent. If your plants have long petioled leaves why not supplement the sunlight with some fluorescent lights? I believe that fourteen hours of light is sufficient, but see no reason why eighteen hours would not be beneficial. Of course we probably would consider the

expense of electricity. I feel that twenty-four hours of light would not be advantageous over normal daylight or fourteen hours of daylight and some artificial lights.

Why do some plants grow such long petioles on their leaves? Some varieties are naturally long petioled. Others indicate a lack of sufficient light. When the light is weak, or over a short period of time the food produced is not sufficient to produce plant cells of normal strength. The "water pressure" within the plant can stretch the cell walls and give you large, soft leaves with long petioles. Increasing the sunlight will shorten the petioles and give you smaller healthier leaves. Too much light will destroy the green chlorophyll and kill plant cells.

Atmospheric gasses, humidity, water, and plant foods are all directly linked with the soil and so I would like to consider these together where necessary. This also involves the several components of the soil. These are mineral, water, soil atmosphere, and organic matter.

The mineral components are sand, silt and clay. These mineral portions are really weathered rock. Sand particles will be the largest particles that I wish to discuss, although some gravel could improve our mixtures. Silt is intermediate between sand and clay. There are thousands of soil types, and I must not become entangled in naming them. I have ten classes I wish to present. They are simply gradations of particle size; from gravel through sand and silt to clay. The term "loam" indicates a soil medium textured between any two classifications. Thus we have gravel, gravelly loam, sand, sandy loam, loam, silt loam, clayey silt loam, silty clay loam, clay loam and clay.

Particles of sandy soils are large, and the space between particles are proportionately large. Water passes through very readily. Air circulates freely through sand. Sands have good aeration, and this is why organic matter "burns out" or rots quickly. Mix silt with sand and you have a silt loam. Silt loams hold water better than sands. Silts hold still more water and this water-holding capacity increases with the decrease in particle size.

Particles of clay are the smallest of all. Clays are so fine that the particles are colloidal in nature, and act like jellies or glues. You can line up 254,000 clay particles in one inch of space. A cubic foot of glass would have a surface area of six square feet, while a cubic foot of clay soil has a combined area of from 150 to 200 acres. A pound of clay has a surface area of 52 square feet.

In clay soils, the pore spaces or the air spaces between dry particles, are very small. As a matter of fact, they are capillary in nature. These spaces will hold water most effectively and for long periods of time. Clay soils, thus drain slowly and poorly, and consequently remain wet for long periods of time.

Clay particles have a valuable physical and chemical property. Since clay is colloidal the par-

ticles are electrically charged, and hold plant nutrients to themselves with a strong electrical bond. This prevents the leaching of many plant nutrients, and yet these nutrients are slowly available to plant roots.

The spaces between the sand, silt or clay particles are occupied by either air or water. The balance between air and water in the soil is very important. Let's consider the air first. This atmosphere is similar to the air above ground, except it is richer in carbon dioxide and water vapor. The air circulates through the soil as it does above ground, except at a much slower pace. The plant roots are giving off carbon dioxide constantly. Some of this carbon dioxide is given off directly to the atmosphere, and some is exchanged for plant nutrients clinging to the soil particles or colloids. Oxygen from the soil atmosphere is absorbed by the plant roots and is necessary for the life process of the roots. A plant cannot live, or grow, unless there is oxygen about the roots. The soil atmosphere is almost 100% saturated with water vapors. Every particle of soil is normally covered with a thin film of water.

A good silt loam is composed of about 50% soil and organic matter by volume. The remainder is pore space, occupied by air and water. The optimum water content is roughly two-thirds of the pore space, or about 30% of the total volume of soil.

The water filling the entire pore space of the silt loam may be divided into three types. Gravitational water, capillary water and hygroscopic water. Suppose you have a large flower pot that will hold exactly one cubic foot by volume. Put a stopper in the bottom hole and fill the pot with silt loam. Fill the pore spaces with water until water stands on the surface of the soil. If you will pull the stopper the water will slowly drain out of the pot. All the water that drains out is the gravitational water, or free water. This is the water that replaces the soil atmosphere and can kill roots by preventing oxygen from circulating through the soil. If you would bubble air, or oxygen, through this water it would not be detrimental to the plant's roots. This shows that the damage is caused by the lack of oxygen, or air. Four hours of water logging is sufficient to kill the roots of many plants. Often this is the reason for failure in African violet culture.

Capillary water is the water held in the small spaces, or capillary tubes between the soil particles. Capillary water is present in all soils that are not air dry. Sand, with the largest particles, will hold the least capillary water, and yet water travels through sand much faster than through any other mineral soil. Water will rise 14 inches the first hour a column of dry sand comes into contact with water. Water travels up through clay soil about half the rate it travels up in sandy soil. Clay soil is the finest, with the most and smallest capillary tubes, and holds the most water. Silt is intermediate between sand and clay.

We need sand to open the soil, and we need silt and clay to hold water (and nutrients). Since water will rise 8" per hour in clay, and 14" per hour in sand there is no reason why you should allow water to stand in saucers for more than one hour, and it is dangerous to leave it for several hours. If the soil in the pot does not pick up the moisture in one hour something is wrong. When soil becomes air dry it tends to become waterproof. Then you must water from the top of the pot to reestablish the capillary action normally present in soil. "Wick-fed" pots should contain soil which is more porous, with less organic matter than in conventional type of pots, since water is always moving up through the capillary tubes. Large capillary tubes must be present, to allow oxygen or air to also be present in the soil.

Should we water from the top or bottom? I will firmly straddle the question by saying "either way is satisfactory". You should use water at room temperature, or slightly warmer, and water from either the top or the bottom. Cold water, or wet leaves in the sunlight are the principal cause of spotted leaves.

When should we water African violets? Water them whenever they need watering. I prefer watering in the morning and recommend the foliage be kept dry in direct sunlight or during the night. If the plants need watering at midnight I would advise watering them.

We thus have three mineral components of soil: Sand, silt and clay. Sand is necessary for bulk, to give soils large pore spaces, and hence for good drainage. Silt is not necessary, but is usually present with clay. Silt should be considered as being similar to clay in physical properties. Clay in the soil increases the water-holding capacity, the nutrient-holding capacity, and decreases the droughty characteristics of sand. Hygroscopic water is unavailable to plants, except for a few moments immediately after watering. Good drainage removes all gravitational water.

I wish to discuss organic matter in the soil, and then I will describe soil mixtures. The soil is a factory, operating to produce plant nutrients. The organic matter furnishes the fuel to run this factory. The living portions of the soil, such as bacteria, fungi, plants and animals, all are burning up organic matter to produce heat, carbon dioxide, water, ash and many other products.

When fresh organic matter, such as green manures, straw, corn cobs, leaves or grasses are mixed with soil many things happen. The bacteria and micro-organisms begin to break down this organic matter, and increase very rapidly. The carbohydrates are broken down first, followed by the breakdown of celluloses and then other materials. The build up of living organisms is truly wonderful. These minute plants can utilize plant nutrients more efficiently than can higher plants. Thus nitrogen, and other plant nutrients are removed from reach of the plants. This is why plants often turn yellow and become sickly when

planted on soil with large amounts of freshly incorporated organic matter in it. The plants will actually stop growing. One ounce of soil contains 28 grams. Each gram of ordinary surface soil contains from one to ten million bacteria. With large quantities of carbohydrates and cellulose present the bacteria may build up to 100 million, with many fungi and algae, and 10 to 25 thousand large protozoa for good measure. This adds up to 630 pounds of living material per acre, or 125 pounds of dry material. This living material contains 10-11% nitrogen, 4-5% phosphoric acid, and 2-2.5% potash. While the bacteria are building up the plants will suffer from the lack of plant nutrients. After a short time the bacteria will reach a peak, and then they die as rapidly as new ones are grown, and gradually, as the organic matter is reduced to humus, the dead bacteria decompose and in turn liberate the plant nutrients they have removed from the soil. At this point the soil returns to normal, and plants will then grow faster and better than before. The organic matter is the natural food of many organisms, and they in turn are the natural source of nitrogen and plant foods for crops, including African violets.

The material remaining after this initial decay is usually dark brown or black. It is known as humus. Humus is relatively stable, is chemically of indefinite form, colloidal, and is beneficial in soils. Humus holds sand grains together. It will hold clay particles together even more strongly. Humus, and partly decayed organic matter takes up water and holds it like a sponge. In sandy soils the pieces of organic matter swell up, absorbing water and blocking many pores. It slows down water passage and increases the water holding capacity.

Humus, a colloid, is essential for granulation or aggregation of clay soils. Organic matter holds the fine particles of clay apart or in small aggregates, and thus allows the water to percolate through the soil more rapidly. The darker color absorbs heat of the sun in early spring, and since the soil is drier, it warms up earlier and stays warmer.

Where can we secure this organic matter? Organic matter is to be found in every city and town in the form of leaves. It may be purchased as peat or leafmold. The farms have a wealth of organic matter. The leafy litter of the wood-lots, the wealth of humus beneath the old hay or straw stack, and the old pile of manure, weathered and rotted by the rain or snow; all are sources of organic matter. The farm ladies are fortunate; in that they can supervise the weathering and breakdown of their own manure and compost piles. The city ladies can make an artificial manure, better than the farm product. I will give this formula later.

The quality and quantity of manure produced depends upon many factors, which vary from farm to farm, season to season, and these con-

ditions are probably never duplicated. The quality varies with the feed grown, **OR purchased**; the kind or quantity of bedding used, and the age, kind and number of animals kept on the farm.

Thus, I commend well rotted manures to you for their organic matter content, but do not recommend them for their plant nutrient value. Their nutrient value depends also upon the fertilizing practices of the farmer where the feed is produced, and upon the protection the manure has received from the weather. Young, growing animals and dairy cows retain more phosphorus and nitrogen than do mature, fattening animals and work animals.

Briefly, plant food value of a ton of manure averages only one or two dollars per ton. A ton of average manure contains 25 pounds of plant food. This would be 10 pounds of nitrogen, five pounds of phosphoric acid, and 10 pounds of potash. Rain leaches out over one-half of the plant food materials.

Would you like to make up some artificial manure? It will be the same year after year, providing you use the same materials. I would suggest leaves of straw, or purchase very old hay. Weigh several bushel baskets of straw, leaves, or hay to determine the average weight of a given volume of tramped leaves, or straw. Here are two formulae:

Add one pint of a 4-12-4 (or 5-10-5) fertilizer and one-half cup of limestone to a well packed bushel of leaves. You may spread out the leaves in a layer, add fertilizer and lime for each bushel, and then wet the mass. Put more leaves on, add fertilizer and wet again. Continue until you have your leaves used up. I dig a trench two feet wide and two feet deep and fill with the fertilized leaves. Next spring this makes swell garden loam, or compost.

Another quick formula follows: Mix eight pounds of ammonium sulfate, three pounds of superphosphate (20%), three pounds of muriate of potash, and six pounds of ground limestone. Add one pound, or a pint of this mixture to each ten pounds of leaves, dried grass clippings, corn-cobs, old straw, hay or other types of unfinished organic matter. Wet thoroughly, in layers, and when the material rots it will produce three times as much manure as your original weight of leaves or other materials.

To make a compost pile you proceed as above. Alternate a layer of organic matter with soil. I would suggest six inches of leaves, or other material, and three inches of soil. With experience you can add just enough soil to the pile, and when it is screened and ready to use it is just right. Otherwise you should plan to add soil to your manure pile.

Fertilizers and feeding of plants.

Plant foods are manufactured in the leaves of the plants and are transported throughout the plant to be utilized in respiration and growth. These foods are sugars and more complicated materials, similar to our own food, (which came

Don't take chances with your **African Violets**

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from plants). Plant nutrients are the essential elements which the plant utilizes in manufacturing plant foods, vitamins, hormones, and growing parts of the plant. There are 16 or more essential elements involved in plant growth. I will not mention all of them, but will confine my remarks only to the major elements.

Carbon, hydrogen, and oxygen are supplied by the carbon dioxide of the air, and water from the soil or plant. Nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium are the three major elements mentioned in all fertilizer formulae. The first figure of 4-12-4, 5-10-5, 15-30-15, 0-26-0, 0-0-60, refer to the pounds of nitrogen in 100 pounds of the fertilizer. The second figure represents the pounds of phosphoric acid, while the third figure represents the pounds of potash in 100 pounds of the fertilizer. The best fertilizers will supply nitrogen, phosphorus and potash in the ratios of 1-1-1 or 1-2-1, and some times 1-3-1.

Nitrogen is the "growth" element. When all other factors are ideal the plant's growth will depend entirely upon the amount of nitrogen it receives. The more nitrogen the faster, and softer the growth. With less nitrogen the growth slows up, and often becomes yellow. Nitrogen is utilized by the plants chiefly as the nitrate. Ammonia nitrogen in the soil will break down rapidly into nitrates. Urea and organic nitrogen sources break down into ammonia, and thence to nitrates. Ammonia nitrogen is changed to nitrate nitrates so rapidly by the soil that either form may be used. I prefer nitrate-nitrogen, and yet in Kansas I recommend ammonium sulfate, because it leaves an acid reaction in the alkaline soils of the plains. I would recommend nitrates for "wik-fed" pots, or sand cultures.

Phosphoric acid is the only form of phosphorus utilized by the plants. It may be obtained from bone-meal, superphosphate, or phosphate rock. I like the superphosphates or bone-meal equally well. Bone-meal does contain a small amount of nitrogen, but some superphosphates are available with nitrogen added. Phosphorus gives the plants a tone, or stockiness, and helps to bring early flowers or fruits.

Potassium is present in the plant only in a soluble form, and moves in the plant from places of least need to places of greater need. In fertilizer the potassium is expressed as a percentage and the sulfate or muriate of potash are the best sources of potassium. Wood ash is the original source of potash. I prefer potassium nitrate, although it is more expensive and hard to obtain in small quantities. It does not add any soluble salts to the soil, since the nitrogen and potassium are both utilized.

Compare the percentages of various fertilizers with each other. If you can purchase a higher percentage of plant nutrient for the same cost then do so. For African violets I like to recommend the soluble plant foods, and they usually are higher analysis nutrients. The soluble phosphoric acid carrier is more costly than super-

phosphate, but their ease of use, in solution, make them highly desirable. Often a dollar will buy enough soluble plant food to last a year, and you could spend hours mixing up your own formula, and then it will harden, and you will discard most of it, or it will pick up moisture and dissolve itself.

I have not mentioned Vitamins and Hormones. I know of no example where a healthy plant has been proven to grow better with the addition of any Vitamin. Perhaps we will find some vitamins, such as B₁₂ or other vitamins beneficial to plants. Normal plants manufacture their own supply of B₁ and other vitamins. Hormones are valuable for rooting many cuttings. I can see no advantage in using them on African violet leaves. The leaves root 100% for me without hormones. To root other house plants these hormones are very valuable.

How should we mix our soils for the African violet? I like to use three parts loam, or good garden soil; one part sand and two or three parts of pea, leafmold, or artificial manure. With heavy clay soils increase the sand, with sandy soil perhaps you will have to omit additional sand. Try for about 50% well rotted organic matter. If you are willing to learn how to use farm manures, and will experiment, then go ahead. I dislike to recommend them on a National scale.

I recommend a four inch pot full of superphosphate for each two and a half bushels of soil, or wheelbarrow full. I like to feed potassium nitrate as soon as the plants are established. Two ounces to five gallons of water will not burn the foliage. Apply to the pot while the soil is still damp. Saturate the soil, and throw away any that drains through. Fertilize every two weeks from March through October. Once a month from November until February. A complete soluble plant food may be used in the place of potassium nitrate. Follow the manufacturer's directions, or use his directions and add twice as much water.

In fertilizing I like to think of fertilizing as being identical to our use of table salt. We like

a little salt every day. We use it often and in small amounts. Using fertilizer is much the same. The plant needs a constant supply of nutrients, in small quantities. Therefore feed them WEAKLY every two weeks, while they are growing. If they stop growing they do not need fertilizers. They need something special. Learn what they need. Remember salt is necessary in small quantities. It is a poison in large quantities. Fertilizers must be treated in the same manner.

I steam sterilize all my soils, pots, tools and flats. I would recommend that you bake the soil in your oven. Fill a large kettle with soil, bury a medium-sized potato in the exact center of the soil and bake in a slow oven. What is a slow oven? I'll have to ask my wife; anyway when the potato is cooked the soil is sterilized. What to do with the potato? The Boy Scouts cook their potatoes in the "dirt" and then eat them! When cool the soil is ready to use. Some soils must stand for a week or so, due to the liberation of toxic substances by the heat. I water my soil thoroughly and allow it to dry out and then it is ready for use.

Formaldehyde may be used. One tablespoonful of formalin (40%) to a teacup of water. Mix it into a flat of soil ($\frac{1}{4}$ wheelbarrow full or half-bushel). Or make up a gallon of 2% solution (1 ounce to three pints equals 2%). Put a layer of soil in a deep box, or barrel, and wet thoroughly from a sprinkling can, put in more soil and wet again. Repeat until the barrel or box is full of soil. Cover with a wet newspaper cover. After twenty-four hours the soil may be spread out to dry. When the odor of formaldehyde is gone the soil is ready to use. Don't mix or handle, when the soil is soaked. You must experiment to find how much water can be sprinkled on without harming the structure when you handle the soil, or let it dry out in place.

I have not discussed insects and diseases in this since others will want to have their say upon the subject.

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VIOLET ODDITY

Hazel Wilk, Colo.

In November of last year I took a leaf off of my "Gypsy Princess" and placed it to root in a large glass jar filled with vermiculite, sand and charcoal in the bottom of the container. This was soaked well with Hyponex water. In less than four weeks I noticed a funny little stalk pushing thru the growing medium . . . As it grew I saw it was a bud stalk. It grew to about two inches in height and soon had a beautiful blossom on it. Nothing in color like the mother plant -- the blossom had a dark purple center with the middle of the petals a pale lavender shading into dark purple tips. The wee mouse ear plantlets soon began to appear and I am watching with interest the day they will be large enough to bloom.



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THE AMATEUR SHOW

Cont. from Page 30

placed. On the other side of the table and artist in a gay orchid colored smock was holding a palette in which were placed violets rather than paints and brushes.

"New Arrivals" won a Blue ribbon for North Shore African Violet Society, Highland Park, Illinois. This display depicted a small mahogany cradle filled with blossoming plants. In one corner of the display a stork held a card giving the title, "New Arrivals."

"Our Own," Illinois African Violet Club won a Blue ribbon.

"Out of This World," Milwaukee, Wisconsin Club won a Red ribbon.

Roseonna Chapter of Chicago won the Ch Blue ribbon for their unique display. They "Girls" planted in China busts and heads for millinery motif. A large shadow box was used and its walls were a soft green. A niche in one side held a head and three others were used at various points. At the lower right hand corner, the focal point, a hole had been cut in the bottom of the display and a plant revolved slowly by means of a concealed motor. This really was an eye-catcher and my description does not do it justice.

All I can say is that the Clubs showed a great deal of ingenuity and I know that all the visitors thoroughly enjoyed the displays. If I have overlooked something of importance or misspelled any name, please forgive me as in the rush of greeting friends and trying to see everything it surely must have happened.

I keep thinking, "What will they think of next year?" and I guess we will all have to go to find out.

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RESEARCH WORK

Cont. from Page 34

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longer. Six hours of the 600 foot candle intensity produced roughly as many flowers as 12 hours of 300 foot candle intensity (the plants grew a little slower, however). Twelve hours was a lot better, and 18 hours was out of this world, being better than could be produced under any conditions in the greenhouse experiments. Mr. Hanchey counted the flowers produced by each plant under these various fluorescent light conditions between August 6, 1951 and February 1, 1952. An abridged tabulation of his results is as follows:

Lighting	Average Number of Flowers Per Plant
300 f. c. - 6 hours	34.1
300 f. c. - 12 hours	87.7
300 f. c. - 18 hours	111.0
600 f. c. - 6 hours	91.9
600 f. c. - 12 hours	180.8
600 f. c. - 18 hours	239.3

But, with all his scientific paraphernalia, Mr. Hanchey could not find an impersonal measuring stick to measure the quality of the plants, and in discussing quality he had to descend to commonplace generalities, even as you and I. He personally likes the appearance of plants grown under fluorescents very much better than those grown in a greenhouse. The leaves are fewer but larger, the plants are larger, the green is darker, the underside of the leaves is redder; altogether he considers that the plants are much more attractive.

The most important elements of Mr. Hanchey's studies, however, are the economic considerations. It appears that it is just as economical to grow African violets commercially under fluorescents as it is to grow them in a greenhouse. The cost of the electricity is at least partially offset by the saving in heat. Also, Mr. Hanchey reports that a plant can be grown to salable size considerably quicker in a fluorescent lighted basement. For example, after allowing, in both cases, two months to get a leaf started in the cutting bed to the point where it can be potted up, only two additional months are required to bring it to salable size under 600 foot candle, 18 hour fluorescents; whereas, four to five months are required in a greenhouse. It is the writer's personal opinion that Mr. Hanchey would have found a similar speed-up in the starting of leaves had he tried this process under fluorescents.

These economics have not yet been proven in practice, but a cartoon in the April issue of the Ohio Florists Association Bulletin showing two very industrious commercial growers tearing down their greenhouse and digging a cellar indicates the thinking. There are also possibilities for the retail florist. We are all familiar with the difficulties they have in maintaining and displaying a stock of African violets in their display rooms. If they can set up a couple of fluorescent lights

over a table in a dark part of their room and maintain their stock in good condition indefinitely, their problems are considerably simplified, particularly since the rather brilliant illumination will have a good display and selling value. For the amateur, the surface is only scratched. Violets can be grown perfectly in that dark corner of the front hall by the stairway, or anywhere else that calls for ornamentation regardless of lighting conditions, and many plant loving souls who have been barred from satisfying their craving by impossible lighting conditions in their homes are now released to indulge their desires by the advent of fluorescent plant growing. The era of ornamental fluorescent lighted plant tables -- pieces of furniture rather than utility benches -- may be just around the corner.

The fluorescent lighting project was a research jack pot. It is very seldom that research shows such spectacular results in such a short time. Our other projects are progressing more normally, but in the long run may show as much permanent value as that one. Extremely valuable work is being done on other projects, and they certainly must be given their well merited praise. At Ohio State, studies are being undertaken to discover a method of combatting nematodes after they are introduced in the potted soil. The method being explored is to saturate the soil with an insecticide which will kill the nematodes without affecting the plant. Three materials are being tried, Heptachlor, Systox and Parathion. This project is just well started, and no results can be reported as yet.

In Denver, at the Denver University, Mrs. Marc Choitz is working under the direction of Dr. Moras Shubert on the symptoms of soil deficiencies in African violets. She is trying to get the answer to those embarrassing questions, "My plant is sick, it has such and such symptoms -- what is the matter with it?" In numerous cases, the cause is a deficiency of some element in the soil, but today no one knows from the symptoms what deficiency is indicated. So, Mrs. Choitz is growing violets under controlled conditions, with various soil deficiencies purposefully prearranged, and is recording the results. A program similar to this has been carried out for a large number of important plants, and the African violet should certainly be in the list of plants whose reaction to various soil deficiencies has been worked out and established. It is hoped and believed that the results of Mrs. Choitz' work can be reported at our next Convention.

At George Washington University in Washington, D. C., Mr. Austin J. Ford is working on a Society sponsored investigation of crown rot. Crown rot is primarily a fungus disease, and there is a well worked out procedure for running down fungus diseases in plants. There are four preliminary steps: first, identify the fungus associated with the disease; second, grow this fungus in a separate pure culture; third, re-infect a healthy plant with this culture grown fungus and produce the disease again; fourth re-examine the newly infected plant and determine that the same fungus is still present. Once you have definitely

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spotted the fungus the cure is fairly easily determined, as all you have to do is to get something that will kill that particular fungus and, since you have the fungus isolated out in the open where you can work on it all you want to, this is fairly easy to accomplish.

One hundred and fifty African violets suffering from crown rot were obtained by George Washington University, sent in from all over the country, mostly by members of the African Violet Society. From these, 230 different fungi were isolated. It is of course, not known whether all 230 cause crown rot. Water re-inoculations of healthy plants have been made with about half of these 230, and in about a half of this half crown rot has appeared in the previously healthy plants. Thirty-five of them are blingers, real bad actors, so now Mr. Ford can show you some extreme cases of crown rot. None of the fungi isolated so far has been a new variety, they have all been identified and recorded before. That is about the present status of this highly important project, and we can look for solid results in the near future. We have already brought the question of crown rot down from the clouds of uncertainty to a solid foundation, and soon should know how to overcome this very exasperating difficulty.

The Society's Research program for next year will be just about as extensive as it was the past year. Present projects will be continued and new ones started. The results so far have been well worthwhile, and have already contributed directly or indirectly to the success and enjoyment of nearly everyone who raises violets. Research programs build up year after year, each year's work assists the next year's work, making each one more resultful than its predecessor, so that as the years pile up we may very confidently look forward to even greater results in the future than we have had in the past.

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SHALL WE HYBRIDIZE?

Cont. from Page 25

This inbreeding or selfing intensifies the qualities we want. If we plan to carry on by vegetative reproduction, we may hit the right combination in the second generation. If, however one or two of the qualities are what are known as recessives, it may take us several generations to be sure none of the factors we don't want is included.

If the qualities we are after are those that can be handed down, we should be able to combine them just about any way we want to, provided they are things that can be handed down. Sometimes they are the result of freaks, disease or some other external agency and cannot be handed down.

Just how successful we may be depends on a number of factors. The limitations of time prevent going into the matter of linkage in the chromosome chain that makes some crosses possible, some impossible and some highly improbable. To show how tough the problem can be let me tell you how this was handled in the case of a common greenhouse flower, column stocks. Those of you who have grown this flower know it will not come 100% double from seed. Even the best seeds will never produce more than 64% double flowers. This is due to a linkage factor that makes the seeds segregate in that ratio.

Even with the best seed in the world a greenhouse operator will have to throw away 36% of his cut, since singles are not acceptable on the market. Obviously, if you could throw away this 36% before they were transplanted, you would save time, space and money.

About five years ago a European seedsman came up with a partial answer, a single that had dark green foliage, while the doubles had light green leaves. Unfortunately the market doesn't like stocks with light leaves, so the answer wasn't too good. So we tried to reverse the order, putting the dark green foliage onto the doubles.

It took 5,000,000 crosses to get two that would break over and produce what we wanted. Here was a case where the factor for double flowers and for light green foliage occurred right next to each other in the chromosome chain, so we had to go to fantastic lengths to get the break. The seedlings that did break were miserable off-type doubles and will need several years of breeding before they will be good enough to introduce.

After we have fixed a character by inbreeding and we are sure it will show up in each successive generation, we are ready to start hybridizing. Let's say that we have a line that has been inbred for four generations only to whites and each generation it has produced nothing but whites. We call such a line homozygous for white. That means that all color has been bred out of it.

The chances are that it will carry over this white color from its seedlings when we cross it onto another line, unless the other parent is also homozygous, but for another color. But if this happens we know there is a factor for white in the seedlings so we bred them to each other, or to their parents. Sooner or later, a white will crop up.

But why, you say, go to all that trouble when you started with a white in the first place? Remember that other parent. Let's say we want a double white, or one that is extremely free-flowering. For our other parent we use a plant that is homozygous for doubleness or for free bloom. Or suppose you are trying to produce that double pink everyone is after. If you had the parent lines already trued up, the chances are you could get a good pink double in one try.

This breeding of inbred parent lines, which in turn produce hybrid seed, is exactly the same kind of breeding we do with hybrid corn. A practice has arisen of calling such plants F_1 hybrids. I dislike this term because it isn't accurate. The F_1 stands for the first filial generation, and all seedlings, whether hybrids or pure species, are the first filial generation from their parents. I prefer to call these inbred hybrids.

As you can appreciate, breeding African violets by this method is not a kitchen-window proposition. First of all, the problem of space makes home breeding all but impossible. Even if all but the best offspring are discarded in each generation, the breeder cannot afford to lose his parent lines until he has obtained what he wants in the succeeding generations. In species other than Saintpaulia I have seen breeders carry as many as 20 parent lines, a dozen plants of each, plus the seedlings of four or five generations. This was necessary so the breeder could go back and repeat with certain parents that proved to be good breeders three or four generations later. Obviously, nothing short of a greenhouse will accommodate the breeding stock necessary.

More important, unless the breeder knows what he is doing he can spend a lifetime trying, without getting very far. The first problem is to learn what characters can be juggled. It is important to know which is recessive, which dominant. He must find out which characters are closely linked in the chromosome chain, which ones loosely held and easy to separate.

This is a big order. On crops of high commercial value, government, commercial and private agencies have spent millions working out the genetic problems involved. The chromosomes of the corn plant, for instance, are so completely worked out that a map can be drawn showing where each gene is carried, and what chance there is to use it under certain conditions.

When we turn to the African violet, however, we are working in practically a virgin field. The only data I could discover along these lines was developed by Dr. Auray Blain of the Montreal Botanical Garden. In a letter to Evan Roberts at Michigan State College, he reports the following:

THE SELECT VIOLET HOUSE

MARY MEEDS

2023 Belmont Avenue

Box 1444

YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO

VACATION TIME IS OVER, BEGIN NOW BY CHECKING YOUR NEGLECTED AFRICAN VIOLET FAMILY. YOU WILL WANT TO REPLACE SOME OF THE OLDER VARIETIES AND ALSO ADD SOME OF THE NEW ONES BEFORE TOO LATE FOR SHIPPING.

Seedlings shown at Convention were 1st and 2nd generation plants and will have to be marketed 1 or 2 of a kind.

Send for my circular for the varieties you want at a price that will please, wholesale and retail prices. Greenhouse open from 9 AM to 5 PM on route 90, Phone 3-9567

PEP-O-PLANT

IDEAL FOOD for House Plants

Especially suited for African violets

Rich in Plant Vitamins

6 oz. bottle added to water

makes 42 quarts

50¢ per bottle postpaid

LECLERCQ COMPANY

Box 3015

Minneapolis 10, Minn.

HOUSE PLANTS A POSITIVE SUCCESS WITH

SPROUT
THE COMPLETE ORGANIC
SOIL CONDITIONER

EASY TO USE: (1) TOP DRESSING
(2) POTTING MIXTURE

RETAIL OR POST PAID \$1.00 2 LBS.

Mail to:

SPROUT

BOX 2941

BRENTWOOD 17, MO.

White Lady crossed with Pink Beauty produced non-fertile seed. Crossed with Blue Boy no seed. With grandiflora purpurea, non-fertile seed. Selfed, no seed. When he tried the reciprocal cross -- Pink Beauty pollen on White Lady, 145 seedlings resulted. Pink Beauty on Pink Beauty, 112 seedlings. Pink Beauty on Blue Boy, 167 seedlings. Pink Beauty on grandiflora purpurea, 2 seedlings.

Blue Boy on White Lady, no seed. Blue Boy on Pink Beauty, 66 seedlings. Blue Boy selfed, 110 seedlings. Blue Boy on grandiflora purpurea, 89 seedlings.

Grandiflora purpurea on White Lady, non-viable seed. On Pink Beauty, 68 seedlings, on Blue Boy 104 seedlings and selfed, non-viable seed.

Obviously, White Lady and grandiflora purpurea are bad bets for the inexperienced breeder, being both poor seed parents and poor pollen parents. However, if they had characteristics which could not be had from other varieties, there are ways to use seemingly sterile plants. One of these is to use naphthalene acetanamide in lanolin paste on the pistil. This is a chemical that stimulates the pollen tube so it has more "umphf." There is a second way that might be used, one that involves a little technical background. I've reached a point where I can't go any further without talking about chromosomes, the bodies which control the inheritance of plant characteristics. I've tried to avoid doing so because this is a highly technical subject, and may confuse more than it clarifies.

All living matter is made up of cells. We are all familiar with these globs of jellylike material so small we have to use a microscope to see them. When a plant reproduces sexually, a male cell must first combine with a female cell. This is the beginning of a seed.

As small as cells are, inside them are still smaller bodies called chromosomes. There may be fifty or more chromosomes in a single cell. But inside each of these chromosomes are still smaller bodies called genes, the actual carriers of individual qualities such as flower color, leaf form, etc.

Before I go any farther, let me explain that what I am describing is pretty theoretical. Obviously, you can't split a cell and watch it working after it has been split open. The minute we try to observe a cell in action, we destroy it. Genes, for instance, are visible only under such high magnification that the illumination needed to see them usually destroys them.

All we can do is to make a series of sections and check the behavior of the cells in a progressive series. From these, we assume that certain things happen in a certain way because they show up in that sequence.

Let's suppose you have believed me so far, and we agree that chromosomes inside cells have genes inside them to carry the qualities we are interested in passing on. One fact that is pretty well established is that there is a normal number of chromosomes for a given species. This is so thoroughly accepted that some botanists have gone so far as to classify plants on the basis of chromosome counts. As far as I have been able to determine, the normal African violet plant has 30 chromosomes. This is from information developed by Dr. G. B. Wilson, Cytologist of Michigan State College.

Now let's watch these chromosomes in action. A pollen grain falls on a pistil and a tiny tube containing the male cell grows rapidly down the style or tube leading to the ovary, in which the female cell is waiting to be pollinated. As the tube reaches the female cell, the wall ruptures and the contents of the two cells flow together.

In what will be a seed, we have a combination of two elements, half from one plant, half from another. But instead of having the normal number of chromosomes, 30, this cell has sixty. How are we going to get that cell back to normal?

If we could shrink to the size of a cell and pass thru the cell wall about this time, we would observe a curious thing. The chromosomes from both cells go into a furious dance, as though they were trying to see how thoroughly they could mix themselves together. At this point, if I were delivering a lecture on genetics, I would have to go into some mysterious terms like prophase, metaphase, anaphase, telephase, and so on, but we'll dispense with a rather lengthy explanation of the inner workings of the cell during this excitement. All of a sudden, half the chromosomes rush to one side of the cell and half to the other. All this seems to happen in a casual way, without any reason why a particular particle should go to one side or the other. But when the dance is over, each side will have 30 evenly matched chromosomes. Then a wall grows suddenly between them, leaving two cells with a normal chromosome count.

If, however, just before this division takes place, we give the plant a shock, the wall between the two parts of the cell does not seem to form. We can do this in several ways. The most effective is by poisoning the cell slightly with colchicine, a drug extracted from colchicum.

Now we have a cell with 60 chromosomes instead of the normal 30. After a while, it begins to divide normally, but each cell will always contain 60 chromosomes instead of 30. We call this doubled type of plant tetraploid. It is larger in all parts than the diploid or normal plant. However, for some reason most diploids flower more freely than tetraploids, so the giant plants may not produce as many flowers, even though those they do produce are larger. I have reason to suspect that many of the Amazons and Supremes are tetraploids, which explains many things about their behavior.

SUPPLIES for AFRICAN VIOLET GROWING

INSECTICIDES

NNOR, Lindane, Sodium Selenate, Kapsulate, Optox, Optox Special, Soilene, Marvel Spray, Detex, and others.

FUNGICIDES

Fermate, Arasan, Anti-Damp. Others.

FERTILIZERS

Hyponex, Electra, NuPhosk, Plant Marvel. Others.

FOR MIXING POTTING SOIL

Bone Meal, Charcoal, Ground Limestone, Hyper Humus, Gypsum, Leaf Mold, Limestone Chips, Peat Moss, Superphosphate.

GLASS WICKING

All sizes and lengths.

OTHER ITEMS

Plastic plant labels, metal foil, Vitamin B₁, pots (clay and plastic), vermiculite, Rootone, plate glass, duPont Garden Products, sprayers.

Write for Catalogue. If you sell African violets ask for Dealer Price List too.

NEIL C. MILLER

Layton's Lake, R. D.

PENNS GROVE 6, N. J.

VIOLET TREASURE HOUSE

Right Down Town

Opposite Post Office

SPRINGDALE, ARKANSAS

RUFFLED QUEEN — Ruffled mulberry flower; exquisite. Rooted leaf; \$1.00; plant \$2.25.

LADY GENEVA SUPREME — Very beautiful. Rooted cutting \$1.00; plant \$2.25.

BRIDAL WREATH — White edged light blue; lovely. Rooted cutting \$1.00; plant \$2.00

CALIFORNIA DARK PLUM — (or LaJolla Plum; PlumGlory; California Red; etc.) We believe this is the best red to date. Rooted cutting 75¢; plant \$1.50.

PINK CHEER — Very limited number of rooted cuttings, per setting \$1.50.

PORTLAND ROSE — Deep cerise over pink; even more cerise than Pink Cheer; foliage similar to Pink Beauty but back more red-veined. Rooted leaf 75¢; plant \$1.50.

RUFFLES AMAZON — Very striking foliage; most desirable. Rooted leaf \$1.00; plant \$2.00

HUGHES HOLLY — Dark outstanding foliage, orchid flower. Rooted leaf \$1.00; plant \$2.00

CUTTINGS OF MOST ALL LATE VARIETIES

SEND FOR LIST

ADD 50¢ PER ORDER FOR POSTAGE; EVERY ORDER SENT SPECIAL DELIVERY; NO ORDERS LESS THAN \$5.00 SHIPPED



GROWERS HYBRIDIZERS

NEW 'LITTLE GIRLS' FOR 1952,
THREE MINIATURES OF OUR OWN
ORINATION

TINKER BELL - Very shiny, oddly convoluted foliage with creamy white edging. Red flowers borne on tall stems well above the foliage \$2.00

WENDY - Shiny round, light green leaves with large white markings on a compact little plant. Flowers well above the foliage, medium blue in color \$2.00

DOLLY DIMPLE - Lots of little round light blue flowers. Leaves round in outline, dark green with central lighter zone rayed out toward the edges morning glory fashion \$2.00

These are all miniature plants from 3 to 4 inches in diameter when mature. Our special offer with this ad: all three postpaid, a \$6.00 value for \$5.00.

PLANTS LEAVES SEED

SEND FOR LIST

Orchard Nursery

4009 Mt. Diablo Blvd. Lafayette, Calif.

AUTOMATIC-WATERING PLANT GLASWICKS

4" wicks, 7/32" -A .08c, 7/32" -B .10c, 1/4" .12c, 3/8" .15c each. 7/32" wicks for 4" pots. Write for bulk prices.

JOHN P. TOBERMAN

102 Avenue "A" North Bellaire, Texas

CLIMBING AFRICAN VIOLETS

Have Both Grotei and Manungensis
at \$2.50 each in 2½ pots

Nice clean healthy plants

Taking orders now for October delivery

LAKEVIEW GARDENS

BOX 20-A FENTON, MICHIGAN

Now, let's get back to relatively non-fertile varieties like White Lady. Here we may be dealing with a third type of plant, intermediate between a tetraploid and a diploid. This is what the geneticists call a triploid. Triploids are quite likely to be sterile. Again, we have to dig down into the chromosomes to find out why.

If we cross an African violet with a normal chromosome count of 30 with a tetraploid that has 60, we have a peculiar situation. When their male and female cells combine, we get a giant cell with 90 chromosomes, which gives us 45 on each side of the wall after it divides. Notice that this is an odd number.

For some reason, the odd chromosome which finds nothing to mate with, prevents seed development. Since it finds no chromosome to pair with, it is left loose in the cell. Since the formation of seed is the last step in the growth process, the plant can grow and thrive up to seeding, but development is arrested at this point.

But if we artificially double a triploid with an odd number of chromosomes, we get a super-giant with a chromosome count of 90.

Incidentally, we have produced a seedless watermelon by crossing a diploid and a tetraploid. The resultant seed produces plants which cannot in turn produce seed.

If by now you are not thoroughly confused, let's get on with Dr. Blain's work with African violets. In addition to the crosses I've already mentioned, he had 110 seedlings of Blue Boy on Blue Boy and Pink Beauty on Pink Beauty. If we were dealing with a uniform, true-breeding species, we could expect these selfed crosses to produce identical plants of the same coloring. Instead, the seedlings of Pink Beauty on Pink Beauty came out something like this (a) practically pure white (b) tinged with red pigment like Blushing Maiden (c) a pink like Pink Beauty (d) a deeper pink, more like Amazon Pink and (e) a deeper pink than (d). Although the population is too small to be conclusive, his ratio was approximately one white to 35 pinks, indicating from evidence too complicated to discuss here, that Pink Beauty is possibly a tetraploid. One check showed that it was a diploid, but I don't want to accept the evidence of a single count, and I can't be sure that what was called Pink Beauty was actually Pink Beauty.

The fact that he got white in the segregation suggests that possibly crosses with uniform (homozygous) whites and Pink Beauty might produce either triploid or tetraploid whites of good size. But that white could not be White Lady, since crosses between these two have produced only blue flowers.

While his Blue Boy by Blue Boy seedlings had not given enough bloom at the time of writing to reveal ratios, he had flowered several seedlings and proved that this variety is not homozygous for blue. He got deep blue, a blue like grandiflora purpurea, and at least two lavender shades.

From these it might be possible to assume that the dominant color in African violets is a lavender which is made up of a blue pigment and a red pigment. This is probably an anthocyanin red which yields purplish tones in the presence of slight amounts of blue. From this I am guessing (and of course it can be only a guess) that if we could breed out all traces of blue by pure line inbreeding, we could get reds that would be closer to real red. Because of the nature of the pigment, it could never be a fire engine red, but it would be closer to a bright wine, much redder than what we have today.

Obviously, if you want a blue that will always transmit blue, you would save time by starting with a variety other than Blue Boy.

With these pitifully few facts that are known about the breeding factors in African violets, you will have to make your start. Now we are ready to answer that question, "Shall We Hybridize?"

If your purpose is to produce superior varieties, in new colors, combined with better growing habits, which you intend to introduce into commerce, my reaction would be, "No."

I don't feel we should further confound the confusion in which African violet nomenclature is today, by making shotgun crosses of miscellaneous, heterozygous mongrels and foisting these mongrels onto the general public.

The chance of getting a superior variety by open pollination is practically nil. Unfortunately, when we do produce these mongrels, we are unable to judge our own children. We think our ducklings are swans and our guinea hens are peacocks. As a result, hundreds of varieties are pushed out that should have been mercifully destroyed on the compost heap.

What we need is more birth control in African violets. If we can contribute nothing more than shotgun crosses made on the chance that we'll hit the one-in-100,000 superior variety that might come out of such a crossing, there are better things to do with our time.

If on the other hand, you are willing to start with superior varieties, pure line them for several generations, cross these pure lines with each other, keep notes on what you learn, and proceed in an orderly manner, you can add a great deal to our knowledge of the African violet.

This means that we are going to be compelled to work together. One amateur can make pure lines of two or three varieties, such as a couple of good whites, and inbreed them until they are homozygous. Then another amateur can breed for flower size, vigor or doubleness. By exchanging plants, two growers can work on a much larger population than could either one alone, and have more fun.

Actually, you ought to flower at least 100 plants of each cross or inbred line, in order to get a percentage of the colors that result.

AFRICAN VIOLETS THE LATEST AND BEST

PLANTS LEAVES SEED

☆☆☆
NOW OFFERING

PINK CHEER	RUFFLED QUEEN
VELVET GIRL	PINK SHEEN
RUFFLED BEAUTY	RED VELVET
PURITY	APPLE BLOSSOM
MAGNIFICO	PINK DELIGHT
QUEEN BETTY	RAINBOW ROSE
DARK BEAUTY	SEA GIRL

AND MANY OTHERS

STRONG-ROOTED ACTIVELY GROWING PLANTS
READY TO SHIP TO ANY PART OF THE U. S.

OUR FALL LIST NOW AVAILABLE SENT ON REQUEST.



KENNETH W. GAINES

4 Greer Street

Mount Vernon, Ohio

AFRICAN VIOLETS

Latest varieties. 1500 plants; 450 varieties. 50¢. 10 \$2.25.

No Mail Orders

MRS. PAUL N. WEBB

McHenry Ave. 2 miles South of Route 14
CRYSTAL LAKE, ILLINOIS

NEW VARIETIES

OVER 25 NEW EXCITING VARIETIES
BY BROWN'S

WRITE FOR FREE LIST OF PLANTS, ROOTED CUTTINGS, LEAVES AND SEED. OLD AND NEW VARIETIES ALSO A SPECIAL DISCOUNT ON OLDER VARIETIES.

Brown's new introductions, limited supply - 2¼" plants \$2.00 each. -- Leaves 50¢ each.
BRIDAL WREATH, CONFEDERATE GRAY, PURPLE DOGWOOD, MOIRE LIGHT BLUE BUTTERFLY, LITTLE CRIS, MINIATURE PINK, BLUE RIBBON GIRL, DOUBLE JERRY, WOODS NYMPH, MAUVE LACE, MOIRE GENEVA.

MRS. T. C. BEE

Route 3

Newnan, Georgia

One thing that will stop many amateurs from going past the second or third generation is the weak, stunted puny plants that will show up as they are inbred. I am sure I'll be called crazy for ever recommending such a course of action. It's true that the more we inbreed, the weaker and smaller our plants become. But when we take two of these puny inbreds and cross them something seems to happen. It's as though we threw an electric current into the life stream of two plants. We get an effect known as heterosis or hybrid vigor. Two of these weak inbreds will not only give rise to a seedling larger than either parent, but usually it is much larger and huskier than any of the grandparents in the line.

It is the miracle of heterosis that makes hybrids so spectacular.

Work along these lines is already under way. So far, work in the United States is limited, but several enthusiasts are struggling to gather the necessary basic data. Abroad, Ernest Benary made a start at Erfurt. Only yesterday I talked with Dr. Wilhelm Benary who told me that he

was afraid the pure lines were left behind in the Soviet Zone when his brother escaped after the Reds expropriated the Benary firm.

The first seed of hybrid African violets was offered by us this spring. This is a product of work done in Europe, where the costly labor of pollinating and other operations incidental to pure line breeding can be carried on at a much lower cost than in the United States.

We had hoped to introduce a full line of inbred hybrids in all colors this spring. However, the production of seed proved so difficult that we had to use the limited amount of seed we had in mixtures. We did introduce a single named variety called Blue Fairy Tale.

To give you an idea of the competition you will have to work against in offering shotgun crosses, let me tell you about Blue Fairy Tale. I have just counted the individual flowers on three specimens of single crown two-year-old plants. The plants by the way, are so uniform that it is impossible to tell them apart except by comparing them leaf by leaf and flower by flower. They average 82 flowers to the plant and each bloom is over 1" across. The color is a vivid ultramarine blue. The flowers are so thick that they crowd together like the head of a cineraria.

The mixture contains true-breeding hybrids with heterosis and the same general vigor. As soon as we can get enough of the separate colors we hope to offer white, lavender, lilac, blue, pink, red and others.

Back of all these are thousands of parent plants and dozens of parent lines. Hundreds of hours of patient hand labor went into the production of 1/1,000th of an ounce of seed.

I mention all this not to sell African violet seed, but because I want you to understand what kind of competition you will have if you do breeding. These super varieties are already in the hands of commercial greenhouses and will probably be for sale generally by next Christmas. Florist customers have snatched practically every seed we have been able to produce. My guess is that there will be 30,000 to 40,000 plants of Blue Fairy Tale alone for sale next year.

Frankly, I wouldn't advise the average amateur to grow Blue Fairy Tale. It is so uniform that the grower will have 30 or more plants all identical. With the limited space in which the average home grower of African violets works, that is just too many of one kind, as good as that kind is.

In closing, let me commend you on the excellence of the work being done by your research committee. Your research committee is doing the best job of any single plant society in existence today. I hope that won't be true next year. As a member of the research committee of the American Rose Society, I am going to try hard to see that we bring our work up to the high standard you have already set.

STIMUPLANT AFRICAN VIOLET FOOD



STIM-U-PLANT FOR AFRICAN VIOLETS

is a sensational new food, developed and formulated after several years of research. Used by commercial growers with glowing results. Feed it to your African Violets to promote beautiful growth and blooms.

Packaged in very attractive 3-ounce can. So simple to use! Each can contains enough plant food to make approximately 60 quarts of rich liquid African Violet food. Being soluble, its results are noticed quickly. Two 3-ounce cans \$1.00 post paid. Order today.

STIMUPLANT LABORATORIES CO.

COLUMBUS 16, OHIO

THE DOCTOR DIAGNOSIS

Cont. from Page 31

- c. The third, botrytis blight, is usually caused by a wound or surface injury to the leaves or crown of a plant. If proper precautions are not taken, this will spread to the rest of the plant. Be sure there is good circulation of air, and practice strict sanitation.

A common bugaboo to Saintpaulias is water spot. Always use warm water in watering plants as they are very sensitive to chill. Sometimes too high humidity may also cause spotting. When the underside of a leaf rubs against another leaf, a drop of water may condense on a particular portion and a water blister or water spot may form and disfigure the leaf.

Mrs. Mooar concluded her talk with the wish that all of us may grow bigger and better Saintpaulias.

REGISTRATION

Cont. from Page 38

Society. The Society will accept no responsibility whatsoever in this regard.

PART IV

REGISTRATIONS BECOME PERMANENT

No valid objections have been filed on any plants published in Part I and Part II of the September 1951 Registration Report, so these plants now become permanently registered.

It should be noted, however, that all permanently registered plants may be subjected to Testing Station ratings as soon as Testing Stations become available.



Mrs. Delphine Hotchkiss, 110 High Point Road, Peoria, Ill., exhibits the superb specimens which won 6 of the higher awards in the 1952 National Convention of the African Violet Society.



Surface feeding means surface roots



Local feeding -- note scalded roots



Plant Marvel feeds the entire root system

HOW DELPHINE HOTCHKISS GREW HER PRIZEWINNERS

"I follow two important rules in lighting and feeding," says Mrs. Hotchkiss: "Use fluorescent lighting and use liquid plant food. I've tried more than one liquid plant food, and for larger, more abundant blossoms on your African violets I recommend PLANT MARVEL. It gives my plants the necessary 'oomph' to come into full bloom with giant size blossoms and

to continue blooming all the year around."

PLANT MARVEL is a 100% soluble, scientifically-balanced food that African violet rootlets can instantly absorb. At most florist and garden supply shops. Or send \$1.25 for enough to make 250 gallons!

FREE: The full story on Mrs. Hotchkiss's methods of growing African violets. Write. No obligation.

PLANT MARVEL

622 W. 119th ST.

CHICAGO 22, ILL.

QUESTION BOX

Cont. from Page 49

There was an article in the March issue about using Soilene and Electra. Would you know where one could obtain them?

Mrs. John Littley, N. Y.

Could you tell me the best way to mail leaves? I have received leaves from several friends but the leaves were so soft they rotted. Some of them had wet cotton around them. Some of the leaves were crushed or cracked.

Mrs. Jane Young, Mich.

We would appreciate you telling us the disease which causes pin point, brown spots to form on the underside of the violet leaves, especially on the "white" leaves. Also what makes brown pulpy spots on underside of leaf, causing leaf to rot. What does one do to prevent and cure the plant in either of these events?

Helen Bailey, Texas

ANSWERS

MAILING LEAVES

To Mrs. Jane Young, Mich.

The most important thing in mailing leaves is not to get them wet. Also, a box that will not crush should be used.

I dip a small wad of cotton in water, squeeze out the excess and wrap this around cut end of stem. Fold a small piece of oiled paper around the cotton, firmly at top so water cannot leak out, then turn up the bottom of the paper. Take a larger piece of oiled paper and wrap around leaf and stem and fasten with staple or clip. After all leaves are prepared, crush a little tissue or oiled paper in the bottom of the box, put your leaves in cross ways, and fill up open space with more crushed tissue. Do not make it too tight but firm enough so leaves cannot move.

PROPER WATERING

To Mrs. John Thompson, Ill.

You say you are treating all your plants alike and still, although some are doing fine, others are not. It would seem your trouble may be in improper watering as you say you water all your plants the same time even though some are in small pots and some in large. It is only natural that a small amount of soil will dry out much quicker than a large amount so your small plants

are possibly not getting watered often enough or the large plants are getting too much water. Except in wet weather, my tiny pots need water every day, my medium pots maybe every other day, and the large pots four to five days. If you touch the soil and it is still moist, it should not be watered. If your leaves get limp, it is generally a sign the soil is too wet or too dry.

To Mrs. H. A. Hanson, Iowa

I think you probably have the same trouble as Mrs. Thompson. You can't have any set time to water your plants. You should look them over every day, and those that are still moist should be passed by.

SOILENE AND ELECTRA

To Mrs. John Littley, N. Y.

I am informed these products may be obtained from Neil C. Miller, Layton's Lake, R. D., Penns Grove 6, N. J. also from H. Rathjen, Florist, Box 496, Elgin, Ill.

BLUE FLOWERS ON FANTASY

To Mrs. C. O. Bowers, Iowa

I also have a Fantasy plant with a few blue flowers, and although this is not common it sometimes happens. I saw an Azure Beauty at the Convention that had plain blue flowers on one half the plant and the regular blue and white mixed on the other half. It made it very attractive.

PARASITES ON LEAF

To Mrs. Helmer Anderson, Minn.

Another party had tiny white insects on her leaves and got rid of them by spraying with a solution made of one teaspoon Volck and $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon Black Leaf 40 to a quart of water. If they have not all disappeared in a week or ten days they should be sprayed again.

GAS LEAK

To Carrimae M. Marks, N. Y.

As the blossoms on your new plants drop so soon after bringing them in your home, it would seem to me it is possible you have a gas leak somewhere, and I suggest you have this checked.

(Miss Marks later wrote me she found her trouble to be from the gas. She bought several new plants and left them in the sun parlor away from all gas and they dropped neither blossoms or buds).

LOW HUMIDITY

To Mrs. Ann Sye, Pa.

You say your leaves get limp, start to turn brown at the tip and then wither away. You also say your humidity reading is about 20. It would seem to me your trouble is from too hot and dry air as 20° is not enough humidity, and you should do something to get more moisture in the air.

GARDENING WITH BACTERIA

Cont. from Page 35

prizes to be enough Fertobac Bacteria Culture to make two (2) tons of compost as first prize and second prize enough Fertobac to make one (1) ton of compost.

First prize went to Mrs. G. R. MacClanahan. Second prize to Mrs. George C. Mayer.

These questions were answered by Mr. Wells from the floor, as were many other verbal questions.

- Q. What can be done for moles which make tunnels in the yard?
- A. The presence of moles would indicate an abundance of earth worms. The former is bad the latter is good. Do not use poisons in the mole runs to eliminate them. Would suggest eliminating them by special traps which are painless to the animals.
- Q. Can one put in bones and fat from material like ham, etc., into compost heap and will the fat harm the compost?
- A. It is not wise to put cooked fat or grease into a compost pile because it will retard the useful activity of the bacteria.
- Q. Do you add lime to sweeten "swamp muck"?
- A. Yes, if you do not wish to add an acid, muck or compost to the soil; you may sweeten it with pulverized limestone rock. Small dead animals may be placed in the center of a compost heap where they will be worked upon by the soil organisms and turned into valuable humus and nutrients for the soil.
- Q. Where can one buy well rotted cow manure that has no odor?
- A. Well rotted cow manure without an odor may be purchased from the Allen Company, Pitts-town, N. J. Other sources may be nearer you. Suggest you inquire of local dairy farms and large stables.
- Q. Can I make compost from maple leaves instead of oak or will they pack and sour?
- A. Excellent compost may be made with maple leaves within two to three months, provided you mix them with other organic materials, loosely shredded, to allow the air to permeate the mass, which will encourage the activity of the aerobic bacteria. All compost will be slightly acid unless it receives some pulverized limestone rock. I have a special folder on how to make compost and will send it to you, free of charge, if you will write me. Incidentally, you will find the Haddon Organic Shredder most helpful to you in making compost very quickly from all garden and garbage wastes.
- Q. How can I break down chopped corn (silage) in a hurry?
- A. If this material is now in the silo, it is no doubt quite damp, possibly acid. To make this

into a good compost humus with a good aroma, I would mix it with other materials, such as straw, hay, corn stalks, leaves, manure and some Fertobac bacteria activator and follow the procedure outlined by me in Chicago. It would be most helpful if you put the other materials listed above thru the Haddon Organic Shredder, which will give a thousand more places for the bacteria to work and so complete the compost making job much quicker than otherwise.

- Q. Would well decomposed compost have any burning action or create too much acid if used for the potting medium of African violets or should compost be mixed?
- A. A well made composed humus from a variety of so-called waste organic materials should also receive a sprinkling of pulverized phosphate rock and pulverized potash rock; also a sprinkling of finely powdered oyster shell -- which will bring the p. H. to about neutral and from these natural pulverized rocks there will be added the necessary and natural trace elements, possibly 30 of them. This well made compost will not burn leaves and plants. However, do not waste it by using it neat, but my recommendation is one part of composted humus, one part good loam soil and one part coarse sand for Saintpaulias.
- Q. Does good, well rotted compost need to be sterilized?
- A. The very fact that a well made compost has been made that way by millions and millions of bacteria and other soil organisms and that it is necessary for them to continue their lives in the soil, whether they be in a flower pot or in the garden, it is not wise, therefore, in my opinion, to kill all of them by sterilization of the soil. It is felt by many organic-culturalists that this type of "living soil" will, to a great extent, eliminate the undesirable soil life.
- Q. We use all types of waste material in our compost pile. Is there any danger in this when proper "layering" is taken into consideration.
- A. Sir Albert Howard, the pioneer of organic gardens and farming, recommends the "indore" method by placing alternate layers of garden wastes and manure with a sprinkling of earth, and excellent results were obtained. Personally, I feel that quicker results may be obtained if you will shred all these materials and mix them thoroughly before placing into a compost bin and arrange for the air to permeate this mass, as I explained in Chicago, and then the compost will be made in less time than it will in the layer system. If you will require further information, I shall be glad to send you a folder, upon request.
- Q. Do bacteria change the p.H. of the soil.
- A. It is entirely possible that different bacteria live in acid or alkaline soil but I am inclined to think that they are discouraged in a soil

that is very acid. I think the important point is that we so arrange the p.H. of the compost to allow the maximum activity of the bacteria. It is my suggestion that pulverized limestone rock is used when making compost. It will be noted that peat is not thoroughly rotted organic material and this is because it is acid and has not been exposed to the air.

Q. Why is it that stalks, leaves and things, take a year or so before they rot in the garden corner? Can you suggest a simple way to hasten the rotting process?

A. We know of course, that it is bacteria that do the "rotting." By chopping sticks, etc., into pieces one to three inches long, will provide a thousand more places for bacteria to perform their miraculous work. This chopping is called "shredding" and may be accomplished easily and very quickly in the Haddon Organic Shredder, using both dry and wet materials. I will be happy to send you and any member of the "A. V. S." the fascinating details.

Q. If collecting leaves and grass clippings and other materials for compost, how long does it take before this compost becomes usable?

A. If you will follow my suggestions, as given in Chicago, you will have an excellent compost within three months. I have a free folder with more details, if you will request it.

Q. What will compost mean to the amateur African violet grower with a very heavy hard clay soil?

A. It will perform a miracle by loosening the clay soil, especially if you will work properly made composted humus into the top 4" of the top soil; not only will it make the clay friable, but it will also add the necessary nutrients to the soil thru the action of the bacteria.

Q. What are the advantages of compost over the best woods soil?

A. The woods soil is, without a doubt, very good quality. It is however, difficult to get in sufficient quantities for a large garden. In the making of composted humus, you may add such a variety of organic materials, particularly when you include vegetable garbage, and so your compost should be richer after adding the various pulverized rocks, than the woods soil would be.

Q. How far should compost decompose for best use? Can compost decompose too far before using as a potting soil?

A. When the organic materials in a compost have so changed their form and are dark brown in color and so a very fine texture -- that is excellent composted humus. This material is also alive with bacteria and when used as a potting soil the bacteria will continually make available to the plant rootlets the necessary nutrients for healthful plant life. It is not wise to keep compost unsheltered for many months, because it is possible that the rains would leach out the

important nutrients in the compost, so I would use the compost as soon as it is in the condition referred to above.

Q. What is the cheapest, quickest and best method of changing the tons of oak leaves which disfigure our lawn yearly, into compost?

A. If oak leaves are left to lie in quantities on the lawn they will kill the grass. If they are spaded into the kitchen garden they will be without the benefit of the air and so will be preserved. To make these into a good and valuable soil food, they should first be shredded into smaller pieces -- this can be done quickly and efficiently in the Haddon Organic Shredder, details of which I will send you if you will so request -- thereby giving the bacteria more places to do their work of "rotting" these leaves, together with other so called waste materials of the garden, including vegetable garbage, and prepared with the necessary limestone phosphate and potash pulverized rocks, which will result in a complete and balanced natural food for the soil.

Q. What percentage of lime would be best to use to deodorize a compost heap in the city?

A. To take odor out of a so called compost heap and put "aroma" into a compost heap is not merely the adding of lime. This heap must be remade and mixed thoroughly with other organic materials, such as leaves, stalks, straw, hay, manure and some Fertobac Activator, if possible. Place these materials in a compost bin. Keep the mass wet with a consistency of moisture equal to a squeeze of sponge and allow air to permeate the center of the material's in the bin to the ground by using chicken wire to form a hole straight down and you will have a miracle happen in your own garden, and with an aroma that I explained to you in Chicago. For further information, please write me, Philip S. Wells, Haddon Heights, N. J.

Q. Of what texture shall the compost be in order to use in African violet soil mixture?

A. When composting -- humus is of an extremely fine texture. It is then known as colloidal; this means extremely fine. A good example of colloidal is milk. When composting -- humus is of this texture and the bacteria have made it so and have released the necessary nutrients into the compost and are so made immediately available for the plant rootlets. For your guidance, I would say that compost -- humus of the texture of sand is excellent for your potting soil.

Q. Should any other ingredient be added to rotted compost for potting plants, especially violets?

A. The natural phosphate and potash pulverized rocks should be added to the compost heap while the materials are fermenting and rotting by action of the bacteria. It is then a well balanced and complete plant food, with the nutrients available in the compost for the plant rootlets; also the bacteria in the compost are continually making other nutrients

available. If you have a well made composted humus, and the above powdered rocks have not been added, they may now be added before you use it as a potting soil. A mixture of two to three percent of potash and phosphate rocks would be sufficient for a previously made compost.

- Q. Does grinding or cutting any vegetable refuse hasten compost curing?
- A. If you will shred the vegetable refuse, including vegetable garbage, it will help reduce the time that bacteria takes to rot these materials because they would have a thousand more places to go to work. If you are unable to do this by hand, we suggest that you might like to use the Haddon Organic Shredder which will so prepare these materials that they will be properly shredded and mixed and that will enable the bacteria to give you a much richer end product. I have detailed literature, if you so request it.
- Q. My garden soil is definitely poor quality. In one corner of the garden I sometimes find an earth worm. Do earth worms make soil unproductive and should I kill these few earth worms?
- A. Hold everything! Do not kill earth worms, rather encourage them. Darwin says the earth worms help to make good top soil, the earth to breathe and to let rain water through the earth worm holes into the soil. I have literature available, free, on how to breed earth worms in cellar, barn and compost heap. All gardeners may write to me for interesting details. Earth worm castings are really earth worm manure and are very valuable in growing Saintpaulias. "A car in every garage, a chicken in every pot, and an earthworm with African violets" is a good slogan.
- Q. Is it true that one cannot grow African violets in pure compost without inviting trouble?
- A. I believe that you will get best results by using one part well made compost humus, one part good garden loam soil and one part coarse sand.
- Q. Is there a difference in garden compost and that used for African violets?
- A. The properly made and well balanced compost humus that I described in Chicago is a complete food for all plants and there is no difference between it and that used for Saintpaulias. If you were not able to get the full instructions from me at Chicago, please write me and I will be pleased to send them without charge. Incidentally, this is true for all readers.
- Q. Should your leaves and compost material be saved until spring to be made into a pile, or can it be made up in the fall.
- A. According to the experts, spring and early fall are the best times of the year for maximum activity of the friendly bacteria which

makes a composted humus. You can help speed up this process by using a bacterial culture and also the shredding of these materials will be of great aid. I have detailed information on these two items, if you will write to me.

- Q. How can I make a tidy looking compost heap in my garden?
- A. Suggest you use Keston Compost Bins of one or two tons capacity. These look good in any garden and no tools, nails or screws are needed to easily erect. Allows proper air and moisture. They are inexpensive and will last for years. Write me for prices of the Keston Compost Bins.
- Q. Is the food value of compost increased by frequent watering if there is little or no snowfall during the ripening period?
- A. There will not be too much activity in the compost heap during the cold weather. The heap should be kept moist to the consistency of a squeezed out sponge. Bacteria of this nature will not do their best work in a dry home. This is also true if the home is exceptionally wet.
- Q. Does composting kill all diseases like cabbage and tomato rot, pea mildew?
- A. Lady Eve Balfour in her book "The Living Soil" has related facts that where tomato vines that had been blighted, were later composted, and that certain natural reactions of the soil organisms during the composting process had made it possible for tomatoes to grown from the tomato stalks, and the new group was entirely free from disease. Lady Balfour has also related, and this is for the information of all readers, that certain proof has been offered whereby mycorrhiza, which is a very beneficial fungus, has been shown to kill nematodes.

DR. WELLS ADDRESS IS:

Philip S. Wells, F. R. H. S.
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Club NEWS

Maxine Wangberg, Club Editor
1920 W. 3rd. St.
Perry, Iowa.

SIoux CITY IOWA

The Sioux City Chapter of the African Violet Society of America, Inc., held their first show on May 3rd, 1952 in the Sioux City Art Center. Unique display, high color and one of the largest attendances in the history of the Art Center marked this first non-competitive show. An estimated 800 persons from over a wide area viewed the showing.

Displayed in tiers around both of the centers main galleries were flowers of both double and single varieties, colors ranging from white to graduated reds and deep purples.

Miss Maude Ellen Lynch, president and founder of the Society, had a display of authentic flavor. Her flowers were displayed in the midst of a miniature African village. The huts and wild animals which accented the flowers had been sent to her from Africa.

Artistic and attractive use of three different levels was made by Mrs. John Adair. Flowers in her grouping were set against a white background with silver foil and orchid tulle used to organize the display into unified composition.

Several displays exploited with full effect lazy susan containers. Each had a light at the top to illuminate the individual floral groups in interesting and attractive ways.

Officers elected to start their year in June are:

President,	Mrs. Vern Larson
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. G. P. Mason
Secretary,	Mrs. John Adair
Treasurer,	Mrs. Earl Waters

HOPKINS MINNESOTA

Members of the Lady Geneva Club of Hopkins, Minnesota were hostesses on March 6th, when one hundred and fifteen guests from the St. Paul, Minneapolis, and suburban African Violet Clubs joined them at a tea in the Red Owl Auditorium.

Mrs. Charlotte Taylor, president of the Lady Geneva Club, presided. Mrs. H. H. Stevens, show chairmen, presented plans for the annual showing to be held in Minneapolis on April 3rd. Mr. Robert Anderson of the Tonkadale Greenhouse addressed the group and gave many helpful suggestions on the culture of violets.

The arrangements were made by Mrs. Mary Gladwin. Mr. Anderson furnished Lady Geneva plants for the large and very beautiful centerpiece on the tea table.

INGLEWOOD CALIFORNIA

The Inglewood, California Branch of the African Violet Society of America was organized in the summer of 1951, and now has a membership of thirty. Meetings are held on the first Monday of every month at 1:30 in the Recreation Center in Inglewood.

Officers elected for the year are:

President,	Mrs. Marjorie Minor
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. Pearl James
Secretary,	Mrs. Helen Drinkward
Treasurer,	Mrs. Emily Skaff

MINNEAPOLIS MINNESOTA

On September 21st, 1949, a group of seven women met at the home of Mrs. Herbert Stevens and organized the Mary Wac Violet Club of Minneapolis Minnesota. Its membership is limited to 12 members. Luncheon meetings are held on the third Monday of each month, with the exception of July and August. Each meeting is devoted to some special study in the pursuit of the best and newest methods for propagating and growing bigger and better violets. A shut-in project is also carried out during the year by furnishing leaves and plants to rest homes.

Officers for this club are:

President,	Mrs. H. A. Paulson
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. V. P. Hollis
Secretary,	Mrs. A. E. Spalding
Treasurer,	Mrs. H. H. Stevens

KANSAS CITY MISSOURI

The Northeast African Violet Club of Kansas City was organized in 1950 and has a membership of 25.

Officers for the group are:

President,	Mrs. Frances Brenner
Rec. Secy.,	Mrs. Evelyn Roark
Corres. Secy. & Historian	Mrs. Leonora Williamson

WASHINGTON D. C.

The Metropolitan African Violet Society of Washington, D. C. has elected the following officers to serve for the present year:

President,	Mrs. Richard Fincke
1st Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. F. H. Rosebrock
2nd Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. Ruth Henderson
Rec. Secy.,	Mrs. June Berberich
Corres. Secy.,	Miss Burnis Benson
Treasurer,	Mrs. Eunice Mercer

The club took part in the National Capital Flower and Garden Show, which was held at the National Guard Armory in March. The exhibit was small, but judging from the number of visitors who stopped to admire the plants and ask questions it was one of the most popular.

In April the club again made gifts of plants, leaves, vermiculite, pots and plant food. The donations going to the ladies in the recently opened building for elderly ladies at St. Elizabeths Hospital.

SALT LAKE CITY UTAH

The January 16th, 1952 meeting of the Salt Lake African Violet Club was held in the Salt Lake Tribune-Salt Lake Telegram auditorium with Mrs. L. K. Banks, president in charge of the meeting.

The new constitution and by-laws were discussed and plans for club activities were made.

Officers include Mrs. Banks, Mrs. Rulon Ben- nion, Mrs. John Jensen, Mrs. Robert Paul, and Mrs. Lyman Kidman.

PASADENA CALIFORNIA

Southern California's first evening chapter of the African Violet Society of America was orga- nized on March 27th, 1952 by Mrs. Ernest Mackey, Regional Councilor. The chapter to be known as the Pasadena Chapter. The chapter is composed of members who work in the day time.

Temporary officers were appointed for six months when an election will be held.

Officers are:

President,	Mrs. Betty Barneck
1st Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. Mariana Peterson
2nd Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. John Gutridge
Treasurer,	Mrs. Ray Adams
Rec. Secy.,	Miss Margaret Mooney

CHICAGO ILLINOIS

On May 8, 1952 the Elite African Violet Club of Chicago held election of officers and the fol- lowing were elected:

President,	Mrs. Rose Trendler
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. Webster Ziegler
2nd Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. Frank Gray
Rec. Secy.,	Mrs. Charles La Hodney
Corres. Secy.	Mrs. Oscar Reynolds
Treasurer,	Mrs. Lane Cooper
Historian,	Mrs. Russell Reyburn

Five members of the club attended the Spring Luncheon at Aurora, Illinois, on May 23rd.

On May 14, Mrs. H. S. MacKenzie, Mrs. E. J. McGovern and Mrs. Russell Reyburn acted as judges for a show held at the Washington and Jane Smith Home for the Aged.

DAYTON OHIO

A second Chapter was organized in Dayton, Ohio, by the Amethyst African Violet Club on May 8. Officers elected were:

President,	Mrs. Bevan Kanorr
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. Clifford Noss
Secretary,	Mrs. Harold Manoff
Treasurer,	Mrs. Charles Maxton

A name has not been selected, but the Club will meet on the first Tuesday of each month, at 1 o'clock in the members homes.

LA VERNE CALIFORNIA

Another Southern California Chapter was or- ganized in La Verne on March 17th, 1952 and will be known as the Pomona Valley Chapter of the African Violet Society of America. The chap- ter will meet on the third Monday of the month at 12 o'clock for coffee and visiting, the meeting to start at one o'clock. Mrs. J. Ernest Mackey, Regional Councilor organized the Chapter. 18 African violet enthusiasts attended the meeting.

Temporary officers were elected for 6 months, at that time a regular election will be held. Offi- cers selected are:

President,	Mrs. Marian Smith
1st Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. Ruby Parker
2nd Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. Emily Creswell
Secretary,	Mrs. Alma Swindwells
Treasurer,	Mrs. Ruth Sharp

NASHVILLE TENNESSEE

The Nashville African Violet Club met at the home of Mrs. Percy Smith on April 21st to install the newly elected officers. Mrs. Orville Maddux retiring president installed the following officers:

President,	Mrs. J. C. Bamford
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. Sam O. Nichols
Rec. Secy.,	Mrs. R. P. Odum
Corres. Secy.,	Mrs. J. Armstrong Jones
Treasurer,	Mrs. L. C. Gross

This is the beginning of our fourth year as a club and some of the accomplishments of the club in the past three years of which we are very proud, have been two lovely shows and our affilia- tion with the African Violet Society of America. Three ladies from our club attended the National Convention at Chicago and each member of our club is a member of the National Society.

MASON CITY IOWA

The Mason City African Violet Club of Mason City, Iowa was organized in January of 1952.

Officers elected are:

President,	Mrs. J. C. Alcorn
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. Ed Kentner
Secy. Treas.,	Mrs. M. A. Schmitt

ELGIN ILLINOIS

The third African Violet Club was organized in Elgin, Illinois. It will be known as the Buttons and Bows Club.

Officers elected were:

President,	Mrs. Gladys Adams
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. Lester Strom
Secretary,	Mrs. Carl Follman
Treasurer,	Mrs. Will Cremeens
Sponsor,	Mrs. Fred Behling

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SEAFOAM SEA QUEEN
RUFFLED BEAUTY
FLUFFY DOUBLE
BRONZE ELF

NAUGHTY MARIETTA
DUPONT BLUE DELIGHT
DREAM GIRL
PAINTED GIRL
DUPONT APPLE BLOSSOM
APOLLO
MAGUNGENSIS
WONDER GIRL
HULL'S BLUE JEWELL
HULL'S DARK BEAUTY
PINK SHEEN
FERN LEAF
OAK LEAF PINK
MAUVE CUSHION
BUTTONS 'N' BOWS
BRONZE BABY

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CARMAN
VIOLET GLOW
QUEEN BETTY
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PETITE
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VELVET GIRL
ULERY'S DARK BEAUTY

ROSEONNA RIPPLE
PINK DELIGHT
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ROSEONNA SWIRL
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ROSEONNA MAJESTIC
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CLAY COUNTY MISSOURI

The African Violet Fan Club of Clay County, Missouri, was organized in 1950 and has a membership of 12. Meetings are held on the third Friday of the month.

Officers are:

President,	Mrs. Carl Pacholke
Secretary,	Mrs. Harry Van Zandt

HAMMOND INDIANA

A group of twelve ladies met at the home of Mrs. Rufe Goins, Hammond, Indiana on January 22, 1952 for the purpose of organizing an African Violet Society. Mrs. Goins acted as chairman, and appointed Mrs. Lewallen as secretary.

Officers elected are:

President,	Mrs. Rufe Goins
Secretary,	Mrs. Russell Lewallen
Treasurer,	Mrs. Neil McNeil

Qualification for membership was discussed and a by-laws committee was appointed. The fourth Tuesday of the month was chosen as meeting date, and the First African Violet Society of Hammond was chosen as the name of the club.

GRAETTINGER IOWA

The Palo Alto African Violet Club of Graettinger, Iowa was organized in May 1951 at the home of Mrs. Earl Erickson.

The following are 1952 officers, elected to serve 6 months:

President,	Mrs. Earl Erickson
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. Ross Clayton
Secy. Treas.	Mrs. Wesley Anderson

The meetings are held on the third Friday of the month. Membership is limited to 15, and the meetings are to be held in the members homes. Light refreshments to be served.

DAYTON OHIO

The Amethyst African Violet Club of Dayton, Ohio, opened their African Violet Show of May 16 to the general public. The club invited all Clubs within the city of Dayton to enter their violets, also anyone not belonging to any club was urged to enter.

Hundreds of visitors viewed the array of blooming plants, the first showing to be opened to the public in Dayton.

The possibilities of violets as decorative arrangements enthralled everyone. Other plants of the Gesneriaceae family were also on display.

A special showing of new varieties proved to be a great attraction.

GREENVILLE OHIO

Treaty Towne African Violet Society was organized April 2nd in Greenville, Ohio. Members of the Westwood African Violet Society of Dayton, Ohio, served as hostesses and provided the program for the occasion.

Bess Hardy, Garden Editor, Dayton Daily News, presided at the meeting and explained organizational procedure. Mrs. Tressie Roesch told of her experiences growing African violets. Mrs. Helen Hoos and Mrs. Pauline Gross demonstrated propagation methods.

More than one hundred attended the meeting and Mrs. Frank Bailey was appointed temporary chairman. Mrs. Harley Christian was elected president.

CHICAGO ILLINOIS

A pot luck supper was enjoyed by members and guests of the Twilight Chapter of the African Violet Society of Chicago, Illinois at their regular monthly meeting on May 13. An interesting discussion followed the business meeting regarding the exhibits, meetings and the newest African violet varieties at the Convention.

LOUISVILLE KENTUCKY

In the fall of 1951 a group of Saintpaulia enthusiasts met to discuss organizing a club. On December 4th, 1951 the group met at the home of Mrs. Robert Carpenter for the first regular meeting. The name "The First African Violet Society of Louisville, Kentucky was chosen as the name of the club.

The following officers were elected:

President,	Mrs. Harold Lynn
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. Gene Wenz, Sr.
Secretary,	Mrs. J. L. Zurschmiede
Treasurer,	Mrs. Robert Carpenter

Meetings are to be held once a month in the members homes on the first Wednesday of each month. The meeting starts at 10:00 a.m., the hostess serves coffee and a salad or dessert at 12:00 and the business meeting begins at 1:00 p.m.

The membership is limited to 14 and all are members of the National Society.

JUDGING SCHOOL

The High Point African Violet Society will sponsor a School for Judging on October 11th, 1952. Mrs. R. R. Blackburn will conduct the school. For further information concerning the school contact Mrs. W. T. Saunders, chairman, 408 Jones Stret, High Point, N. C.

The club officers are:

President,	Mrs. B. W. Hackney, Jr.
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. R. R. Blackburn
Secretary,	Mrs. E. J. Oglesby
Treasurer,	Mrs. Martha Gates



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LITTLE ROCK ARKANSAS

The Little Rock African Violet Society elected the following officers for 1952:

President,	Mrs. R. B. Bidwell
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. Beatrice Denny
Secretary,	Mrs. Gus Albright
Corres. Secy.,	Mrs. H. C. Thompson
Treasurer,	Mrs. Miller
Publicity,	Mrs. Wallace Davis

The Little Rock Society held their third annual African Violet Show at the Hackett Seed Store on November 15th and 16th. One hundred plants were entered by the members and 450 were registered for the door prize. Mrs. C. C. Hartenbower, of Springdale, Arkansas served as judge.

The Sweepstakes was won by Mrs. Zelma Pierce.

The most outstanding plant was a Double Neptune exhibited by Mrs. Pierce.

DES MOINES IOWA

Thirteen ladies met at the home of Mrs. Dorothy Young on April 8th, 1952 to organize the Des Moines African Violet Club, of Des Moines, Iowa.

The meeting was called to order and the following officers were elected:

President,	Mrs. Dorothy Young
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. Maxine Wangberg
Secretary,	Mrs. Cope
Treasurer,	Mrs. Fred Gammell

Meetings are to be held on the first Tuesday of the month in the members homes, with light refreshments to be served by the hostess.

Mrs. Mae Ritchart, Mrs. Davis and Mrs. Wigton were appointed to the by-laws committee, and plans for club activities were made.

CLAY COUNTY MISSOURI

Saintpaulia Friendship Society of Clay County, Missouri, was organized in 1949 and has its meetings on the first Wednesday of the month.

Officers are:

President,	Mrs. G. W. Hainline
Secretary,	Mrs. Lois Ellington

SEL-KAPS

SODIUM SELENATE IN CAPSULES

A new and thoroughly reliable method for the control of Mite, Mealy Bug, Cyclamen Mite, Red Spider, Aphids and pests that attack African violets. Sodium Selenate is a poisonous material which when absorbed by the plant, kills the insect.

SAFE, RELIABLE. 18 CAPSULES \$1.25 post paid.

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Mrs. T. M. Church, Oakhill Gardens, R. F. D. 12, North Kansas City, Mo.
Mrs. R. Milton Cochran, 5148 Pitman Road, Rt. 3, Kansas City, Mo.
Mrs. Arthur Lee Coil, 5309 W. 65th Place, Mission, Kansas
Mrs. E. F. Hampel, 6009 Maple, Mission, Kansas
Mrs. Robert L. Henry, 201 E. 67th Street, Kansas City, Mo.
Mrs. L. T. Mick, 5511 Harrison, Kansas City, Mo.
Mrs. Robert Montgomery, 5744 Oak Street Kansas City, Mo.
Mrs. Carl Pacholche, 4030 No. 1 Highway, North Kansas City, Mo.
Mrs. W. E. Ward, 62 So. Century Street, Memphis, Tennessee

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PLASTIC PLANT MARKERS 100 @ \$1.00 N.N.O.R.
6 OZ. \$1.30 16 OZ. \$2.50. SOILENE 10 LB. \$4.00.

Order plants early. We ship only at customers risk in freezing weather. Send for fall price sheet.

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Gives Quicker, More Vigorous Start

Especially compounded for quick rooting, this light, porous medium gets African Violets off to the kind of healthy growth that means so much. Smooth textured, well-aerated and fast-acting. Here is a root "starter" and stimulant that shortens the time until bloom. Properly balanced and sterilized, it saves you time, bother and "mess".

VIOL-OGEN POTTING MIXTURE

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Supplies ALL elements necessary to special growth requirements of African Violets. More than just a potting soil, this is a dependable, balanced blend of mildly-acid, long-lasting organic materials. Laboratory controlled, it is free from fungus diseases, nematodes and other pests. Clean, odorless and easy to use.

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As African Violets should be fed from the bottom to encourage deep rooting, old-fashioned feeding methods are inadequate. *Viol-Ogen* is a new, quickly soluble African Violet plant food and stimulant, rich in vitamins and hormones. Easily applied. Induces startling, extra-large, rich-color blooms.

VIOL-OGEN SPRAY

Kills Deadly Hard-to-See Pests

Don't wait for drooping, curling or dropping leaves, or small white cotton masses to warn you that your Saintpaulias are insect infested! Tiny mealy bugs, cyclamen mites and other pests feed on the lower side of the leaf, and often are invisible to the naked eye. *Viol-Ogen Spray* controls pests! Even penetrates waxy shells of "hard-to-get" insects, yet is non-poisonous to humans and household pets.

Every African Violet Grower Needs
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Viol-Ogen Kits contain four handy specifics for the proper culture of Saintpaulias. Each material has a special function. Each contributes vital growth factors to the life of your plants. And each is so easy to use that it reduces labor to a minimum. Together, they enable you to get even more pleasure out of growing one of the most beautiful of all plants.

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Viol-Ogen Kits are available at garden, seed, hardware and drug stores and florists. If your dealer is not yet carrying this popular new product, enclose his name and order direct. Complete kit only \$2.95, postpaid. Results and satisfaction guaranteed. Also ask for new copy of "How to Grow Beautiful African Violets." Free upon request. Write today. Rose Manufacturing Co., 514-92 Ogen Laboratories Bldg., Beacon, N. Y.

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presents

"Alma Wright"

... The Lovely Double White, now ready for you

Lovely in every detail . . . its pure and glistening blossoms are symmetrically formed and appear in grace and profusion on upright stems . . . its leaves are small and light green, in keeping with the handsome, yet dainty aspect . . . its habit is neat and restricted, harmonious in overall composition . . . it is, we feel, a fitting plant to honor our "First Lady" of African violets, a past president of this Society and present editor of this magazine.

We have observed this plant for over two years and find it true and consistent in its propagation. You are assured of pure stock. This plant has been registered with the African Violet Society of America and is now Ready For You Immediate shipment of all orders while weather permits \$2.50

(See front cover for color pictures of "Alma Wright")

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Rainbow Geneva, Red King, Snow Prince, Fantasy, du Pont Lav. Pink, Norseman, Blue Warrior, Purple Girl, Double Neptune, Sailor Girl, Lav. Girl Hybrid, Plum Satin, Red Bi-Color, Mauve Fringette, Tinted Lady, Star Sapphire, Amazon Blue Eyes, Crinkles, Lady Geneva, Ruffles, Violet Beauty, Gorgeous Bi-Color 75¢ each

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